Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-194 *6 October 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Views Developments in Comoros

NC0510151695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed satisfaction at the return of constitutional legitimacy to the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he is confident the French forces will withdraw from the Comoros once their mission is over. He said the French forces launched their mission at the request of the Comoros Government in accordance with the joint defense agreement signed between France and Comoros in 1978.

In exclusive statements to MENA today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League hopes that stability and security will prevail in this Arab League member country. He expressed the hope that the people of Comoros will develop and progress under their legitimate leadership.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League was the first to condemn the invasion carried out by mercenary forces. He said he was following up developments in the Comoros while taking part in the UN General Assembly meetings.

League Supports Libya's Nomination for UNSC

LD0510061295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ismat Abd Al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, confirmed the support of the member states of the Arab League for Libya's nomination for the UN Security Council [UNSC]. This was stated during a meeting of Arab states' foreign ministers, held in New York on the sidelines of the 50th session of the UN General Assembly.

Islamic Affairs

Kuwaiti Minister Backs Syrian Stance on Peace

MM0510110695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Sabah al-Ahmad: Jerusalem Occupied by Force, Israel Must Withdraw From It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Kuwait has stated that it supports the Syrian position "calling for a total withdrawal in return for total peace" and that it supports "the Palestinian self-rule negotiations," and said that Jerusalem is a territory occupied by force and that Israel should withdraw from it.

This came in a speech given by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al- Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, at the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], held last night in New York, on the fringes of the proceedings of the 50th UN General Assembly session. Shaykh al-Sabah reiterated his demands that Iraq comply with the Security Council resolutions, implement the remaining clauses of the resolutions, and resolve the issue of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and hostages, so that they can return to their families.

The Kuwaiti official added: "Issues of concern to the member states are numerous and multifaceted, most importantly the Islamic group's [al-majmu'ah] role in formulating world decisions, or the so-called new world order. We believe that there is a need to stress that the Islamic group should have a strong voice in world performance, thus guaranteeing that the impact of decisions neither harms Islamic interests nor affects the benefits that Islamic states are reaping by cooperating closely between them."

He added: "I demand that Iraq comply with the Security Council resolutions, implement the remaining clauses of the resolutions, and resolve the issue of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and hostages, so that they can return to their families. No doubt you will stand by us and support our claim, which is based on the precepts of the True Religion and the legitimacy of laws and principles."

He then went on to the subject of the peace process, saying: "We followed the contacts on the peace process in the Middle East. And because we are preachers of peace and defenders of right, we supported the negotiations according to the principle of 'land for peace.' Kuwait participated in the multilateral (negotiations) out of the belief that they would help to propel the bilateral tracks. In this context we support Syria's position calling for a total withdrawal in return for total peace, within the framework of arrangements guaranteeing peaceful coexistence based on security and tranquillity."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Sep

NC0510190495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. MB Spokesman al-Hudaybi Denies Mubarak's Remarks to LE FIGARO
2. Labor Party Official in al-Minya Arrested, Moved to Cairo

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3. Islamic Group Warns Croatia over Tal'at Qasim
4. Cairo Receives Initial Report From Tel Aviv on POW Affair
5. Writer Criticizes "Slogan-Mongering" Arab Rulers
6. Writer Ridicules Government Charges Against MB
7. 'Adil Husayn Criticizes Mubarak's Policies
8. 'Adil Husayn Discusses Upcoming People's Assembly Elections

MB SPOKESMAN AL-HUDAYBI DENIES MUBARAK'S REMARKS TO LE FIGARO

A 900-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi on pages 1 and 8 says "international condemnation" of the military trials of Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members has escalated. A big Islamic conference in London on 24 September "denounced" the trials and urged the Egyptian Government to stop them. Meanwhile, a delegation of British lawyers arrived in Egypt on 27 September to attend the trials and meet with government officials. The delegation, led by John Plats-Mills, a barrister and former MP, sent a fax to the presidential office requesting a meeting with President Mubarak. The delegation met with MB leaders on 28 September.

The report notes that in commenting on President Mubarak's remarks to the French newspaper LE FIGARO, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, MB deputy general guide and official spokesman, denied Mubarak's accusations that the MB encourages violence and sabotage. Al- Hudaybi said: The public and military prosecutors' investigations of the MB members being tried by a military court do not mention any sabotage at all. No MB members have yet been charged with that crime, so we deeply regret that inaccurate information is being given to the president. The only charge leveled against those people is forming an unlicensed party. In addition, we find unconvincing the president's claim that these MB members have been referred to a military court so that their case will be examined quickly, considering that the detainees have spent over six months in detention without being charged with either violence or sabotage. This means that the detainees are being denied of any chance of submitting their case to a civilian judge or making an appeal.

Al-Hudaybi told LE FIGARO: On numerous occasions President Mubarak has indicated that he used to have contacts with the Muslim Brothers until they started carrying machine guns. The history of the MB's relationship with President Husni Mubarak, ever since he was vice president to the late President Anwar al-Sadat, does not show him accusing any MB member of pointing a gun at his excellency or the late President al-Sadat or of carrying out any act of violence. As everybody knows, the MB had no connection with the assassination of President al-Sadat or with the reviewing stand incident. The facts and subsequent investigations and trials prove this. All the investigations into violent incidents prior to and after that incident prove that the MB was not implicated in such incidents.

Al-Hudaybi said: We greatly regret all this paper shuffling and the accusations against us, accusations of which we are absolutely innocent. We condemn these accusations and pray God will make the truth known. We repeat that the MB believes in dialogue as a way to persuade others or be persuaded by them, to solve issues, to present views, and to clarify facts. The MB has frequently sought to open channels of dialogue with the Egyptian Government, but the doors are still being slammed in its face. Officials at all levels have rejected these MB overtures. Nevertheless, the MB continues to be interested in a dialogue with all interested parties in the interest of the country and people.

Al-Hudaybi denied a report that he met with Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary of the ruling National Democratic Party, during the first half of September. According to the 27 September issue of the leftist newspaper AL-AHALI, the report of the meeting was published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS.

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL IN AL-MINYA ARRESTED, MOVED TO CAIRO

A 100-word report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 1 says Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman Lutfi, secretary of the Labor Party in Mallawi and a potential People's Assembly candidate, has been arrested in al-Minya and transferred to the State Security Intelligence Department [SSID] headquarters in Lazugli in Cairo. He was arrested on 26 September at the Labor Party office in al-Minya when the security forces stormed the building during a meeting of the Labor Party women secretariat with the families of detainees.

An 80-word unattributed report on page 1 says SSID detectives have ransacked the office of lawyer Muhyi-al-Din Hasanayn in the Cairo suburb of al-Ma'adi. Hasanayn was detained for several days at the local police station and was then moved to SSID headquarters in Lazugli in Cairo.

ISLAMIC GROUP WARNS CROATIA OVER TAL'AT QASIM

An unattributed 400-word report on pages 1 and 8 says the Croatian Government has been close-mouthed about where Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, information official of the Islamic Group, is being detained. The Croation Government has so far ignored messages and appeals from Islamic centers in Denmark and several Islamic

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personalities asking it to release Tal'at Qasim and not to hand him over to the Egyptian Government, which has passed a death sentence on him. Meanwhile, the Islamic Group has issued a statement expressing apprehension that Tal'at Qasim might be extradited to Egypt. The Islamic Group "warned Croatia against becoming involved in a battle to which it is not a party."

The report then describes Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim as "one of the founders of the Islamic Group in Upper Egypt." He was granted political asylum in Denmark after he was sentenced to death in the first military trial of what has become known as the "Returnees from Afghanistan" case. In that trial death sentences were passed on a number of Islamic Group members living abroad in order to give the Egyptian Government the right to demand their extradition. However, most European governments have rejected the extradition requests because they consider the Islamic Group members to be political opponents and not terrorists as claimed by the Egyptian government.

CAIRO RECEIVES INITIAL REPORT FROM TEL AVIV ON POW AFFAIR

A 400-word report by Managing Editor Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 8 says Cairo has received an "initial report" from the "Zionist entity" on the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars. The Israeli report ignores Egyptian demands for investigations of the "criminal enemy commanders who supervised the massacre of the prisoners." The Israeli report also ignores "any reference to Egyptian demands that an Egyptian investigating team participate in any investigations by the criminal Zionists." The Israeli report indicates that the "accusations against the killers lack accuracy and indisputable proof." "Nevertheless, Israel is prepared to pay appropriate compensation to the Egyptian government," the report says.

Bakri says that during the ongoing contacts between Cairo and Tel Aviv on this issue, "terrorist" Yitzhaq Rabin asked President Mubarak "to suspend" the POW 'issue until after the Israeli general elections. Rabin indicated that this issue has reduced the popularity of the Labor Party by 8 percent. Bakri adds that Cairo has turned down Rabin's request, insisting that the issue be resolved within three months.

WRITER CRITICIZES "SLOGAN-MONGERING" ARAB RULERS

A 350-word column by Mahmud Bakri on page 4 criticizes "slogan- mongering" Arab rulers who claim to be "most sincere" to their nation, "most loyal" to its history, and the "most worthy" to shoulder the burden of its struggle. He says the Arab people have been afflicted by such rulers, who used to be "hawks" leading their people's struggle but have now become "doves" following policies that conflict with their people's interests. These rulers have become "middlemen selling land, honor, and dignity." They have reconciled with the enemy despite their nation's objection. In a gesture of defiance to their people, they display "insincere smiles" whenever they pose for a photo opportunity with the enemy. Deception has become the hallmark of these leaders, who have lost touch with their nation's history and who have forged a new history based on treachery and resting on the skulls of thousands of martyrs.

WRITER RIDICULES GOVERNMENT CHARGES AGAINST MB

A 300-word column by Tal'at Rumayh on page 6 sarcastically asks "who is the genius" who recommended that the Muslim Brothers be referred to military courts? The writer says "this strange decision" sets a "serious" and "destructive" precedent for political life in Egypt. He says the decision reflects the government's "weakness" and "fear" of the MB candidates in the People's Assembly elections. He adds that the "use of this serious weapon against opponents" has serious implications, namely that military trials await all popular political figures who oppose the regime. Regarding the government's claim that the MB is an illegal organization, the writer says this pretext is ludicrous. The MB existed before the regime itself. The MB exists everywhere. The state contacts MB leaders and publishes their cables to President Mubarak.

'ADIL HUSAYN CRITICIZES MUBARAK'S POLICIES

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn in a 5,000-word article on pages 5 and 8 'Adil Husayn discusses the West Bank self- rule accord, Egypt's ties with Sudan, and the situation in Algeria and its similarity to the situation in Egypt.

Regarding the West Bank self-rule accord, Husayn says: Humiliation and surrender may be imposed on great nations but we have never seen these nations' representatives sign the documents of surrender happily and smilingly or portray defeat as a victory for which ceremonies and festivals are held. What did we see at the White House yesterday? Israel has a right to rejoice because it has succeeded in its plans. The United States has a right to hold a ceremony because it has supported Israel and enabled it to achieve its objectives. But why did our representatives attend this ceremony? Why was annoyance or embarrassment not apparent on their faces? Why this praise of President Mubarak's role in pushing the Palestinian negotiator to sign agreements

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that threaten the future of Egypt and the Arabs, nullifies the Palestinian cause, and leaves Syria in the lurch?

'Adil Husayn says any future Palestinian state will a "deformed dwarf" that is a "satellite" of the Israeli administration, which will be relieved of the trouble of daily administration and enforcement. Israel seeks to establish a "weakling" and an "obedient" Palestinian entity that will be a tool for its expansionist ambitions in the region. He adds that during the transitional period all tools of "repression and bribery" will be used to reshape the Palestinians psychologically and socially. Anyone who accepts treason will ensure his personal safety and will gain money and power. Whoever refuses to adapt and keeps alive the issues of Jerusalem, the homeland, the refugees, and Arab and Islamic affiliation will starve or be hunted down. He says the Palestinian society and state will be headed by "collaborators," and adds that there is no time limit for the transitional period because the Israeli leaders have often said that "there are no sacred dates."

'Adil Husayn says Israel will use its control of the "Palestinian state" and Jordan to reach the oil and money of the Gulf. The Zionists recently "salivated" when they imagined that Iraq was nearing its end. He says Egypt is being "excluded" from any important role in the region, including the upcoming Amman Economic Summit. Nevertheless, Egyptian leaders will participate in this conference, happy to play a secondary role.

Regarding Egypt's ties with Sudan, 'Adil Husayn says the U.S. Administration has stated that there is no evidence linking the Sudanese government to the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Nevertheless, Egyptian rulers insist on accusing Sudan and "fabricating evidence" against it. 'Adil Husayn says President Mubarak to the French newspaper LE FIGARO have revealed "aggressive tendencies" toward Sudan. He chides President Mubarak for saying that the Sudanese regime "must disappear." He accuses President Mubarak of instigating the world community, including the United States and the other major powers, to overthrow the Sudanese regime. He asks why the emphasis on striking Sudan? Is it because Sudan opposes the "surrender" agreements with the "Zionists." Is it because Sudan's turn has come after the blows dealt to Iraq? Is it because Sudan's "renaissance" is based on embracing Islam and Islamic unity?

'Adil Husayn says "Arab and Muslim Sudan is the natural and permanent ally of the Egyptian people" and under no circumstances must we establish an alliance with other states against it. He calls for joint economic integration and development with Sudan. He calls Mubarak's remarks "unrealistic," saying the Sudanese opposition conference now being prepared for in Cairo will achieve nothing. Moreover, the United States and Israel reject any military intervention in Sudan, not out love for Sudan but because they are loathe to give any role to the Egyptian Army outside Egypt's borders. He adds that any military intervention to overthrow the regime in Sudan would be a "disaster" and an unspeakable "crime" against Islam. He cautions the Egyptian rulers against imagining that the regime in Sudan is without grassroots support. He says agitation and psychological warfare are not enough to finish it off, because a regime established on the principle of "There is no God but Allah" is strong and deep-rooted.

Addressing the Egyptian rulers, 'Adil Husayn says even if the Sudanese regime is fragile and can be easily overthrown, "what will succeed it?" "Do you have a better alternative?" he adds. "And can you guarantee that the new regime will not be more hostile to Egyptian interests?" During the recent student demonstrations, a U.S. State Department spokesman said "they are not in a hurry to see the Sudanese regime overthrown" because "they are not sure what the new regime would be like." He says this is a "very wise" decision by a superpower that takes calculated steps.

Regarding the situation in Algeria, 'Adil Husayn finds many similarities between this situation and the situation in Egypt. Citing a recent Amnesty International report on the armed conflict between the Algerian security services and armed Islamic groups in which thousands have been killed, and the arrest and torture of suspects, 'Adil Husayn says this "greatly resembles what is happening in Egypt." The only difference between what is happening in Algeria and what is happening in Egypt is "quantitative." The number of those killed in Algeria until 1994 was 30,000, while those killed in Egypt numbered 2,000. However, we are quickly catching up with the level of violence in Algeria.

Chiding President Mubarak for his remark to LE FIGARO that he fully supports the Algerian authorities in their war against the "extremists," 'Adil Husayn says President Mubarak has thus joined the camp of the "eradicators" [al-ista'siluyun; a play on the word "al-Usuliyun", which means "fundamentalists"] in Algeria, which is led by the current military leadership with the full backing of France. This leadership, like President Mubarak, believes that any Islamic trend is bad and must be eradicated even if it eschews violence and favors a parliamentary system. France's stand is explicable but Mubarak's stand is inexplicable from any Islamic, Arab, or Egyptian perspective. France supports the eradication of the political role of Islam in Algeria as part of its plan to regain Algeria as a French territory.

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'ADIL HUSAYN DISCUSSES UPCOMING PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

In another 3,000-word article on page 5 'Adil Husayn discusses the upcoming People's Assembly elections. He says every individual feels "ashamed" if he is caught violating principles and values. However, our rulers no longer care about any principles and do not feel ashamed if you confront them with deviations alien to the nation's traditions. They are fighting the Islamic awakening. When we tell them that they are corrupt and that they foster corruption, they just smile and say nothing. "On the occasion of the upcoming elections, we tell them: You are vote riggers." They do not answer. "This is strange behavior that needs psychological, as well as political, analysis."

'Adil Husayn says "we cannot fight corruption and dirty money except through a new government." "The nation cannot restore its social and economic vitality except through a change of government." "If a new government does not result from free elections, the youths will resort to violence in hopes of overthrowing the present government by force." He adds that "the rulers have so far not opted for free elections, showing a preference for Algeria's bloody course."

'Adil Husayn says "we are contesting the upcoming elections without illusions." We realize that there will be attempts to rig the elections but we will not boycott the elections as we did the 1990 elections. "The reformist Islamic trend (Labor Party and Muslim Brotherhood) sees it is its duty to change its tactics and to contest the elections in a last-ditch attempt to salvage the political system from collapse and avert sedition." 'Adil Husayn repeats that "we have no illusions about contesting the elections." They will be rigged, "but we will test the people's courage to grab their freedom." He adds that "freedom is being grasped by jihad and blood; it is not a gift of corrupt and repressive rulers." However, intellectuals and writers must help the people in this battle. They can do this by denouncing any rigging of the elections. He greets "great writer" Mustafa Amin and hopes he will continue to "expose" the riggers until their hands shake and they lose their nerve. He also hails writer Sa'id Sunbul for calling for a televised debate among the parties. He chides Mukarram Muhammad Ahmad, chief editor of the magazine AL-MASWWAR, for saying that instead of encouraging the voters to participate in the elections, the parties occupy themselves with "imaginary" battles over the screening of the voters's lists, the presence of judges at the polling stations, and the lifting of the emergency law.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Implementation '10 Days After' Signing

JN0510145295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon his return to the homeland today, President Yasir 'Arafat said the implementation of the Taba agreement should start ten days after its signing. In press statements, President 'Arafat said that Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman pledged in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to release the Palestinian female prisoners.

Regarding the recent settlement activity in occupied Jerusalem and the confiscation of lands in Bayt Haninah and Shu'fat, President 'Arafat stressed the need for the Israeli side to respect the agreement that was signed.

On the Palestinians who were expelled by Libyan authorities, President 'Arafat said: I discussed this issue with Arab leaders, particularly with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He noted that President Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held telephone contacts with Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in this regard.

Israel Said Not Complying With Prisoner Release

JN0610124595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Report from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, said Israel has thus far not complied with the agreement signed in Washington, particularly with regard to the release of male and female prisoners.

Dr. 'Urayqat said he hoped that some prisoners would be released within the next few hours.

Minister Rejects Israeli Detainee Swap Offer

MM0510143095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Rejecting Blackmail Policy, Abu-Middayn Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israel Seeking To Exchange Palestinian Women Detainees for Seven Hamas and Jihad Members"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — The issue of the release of the Palestinian women detained in Israeli jails — 28 of them — has taken a new direction. Purayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has disclosed that the Israelis are trying to blackmail the Palestinian side by linking the release of these detainees with the handover to the

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Israeli authorities of seven Hamas and Islamic Jihad members held in Gaza and Jericho by the Palestinian police.

However, Abu-Middayn stressed in an exclusive statement to AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he expects all these detainees to be released at the beginning of next week. He also stressed that the Israeli Knesset, which will convene at midday today to discuss this issue, will vote with a meager minority for their release.

Abu-Middayn pointed out that the issue of linking the Palestinian women detainees' release with the handover to Israel of seven Hamas and Islamic Jihad members held in Palestinian jails in Gaza and Jericho was first raised with him by Israeli Justice Minister David Liba'i three weeks ago. And that the PNA totally rejected the exchange offer, saying that each issue can be tackled individually without linking one with another. Abu-Middayn said that the circumstances of the elections and the current campaign in Israel in this connection have caused senior Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, to be exposed to the blackmail of extremist Israeli circles. [passage omitted]

Ministry Criticizes Libya, Israel on Deportees

JN0510141095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The [Palestinian] Information Ministry regrets the Libyan Government's treatment of 30,000 Palestinians as hostages who have been forced to leave their work places and homes for camps in the desert. The ministry said that the problem of our people in Libya has taken a grave and tragic turn when all doors were closed and all Arab borders sealed to them, even for transit purposes, although they have travel documents that allow them to enter host Arab countries. The ministry said this violates the Arab League Charter and the 1965 protocol on the treatment of the Palestinian people in the fraternal Arab countries.

The Ministry explained in a statement it issued that Libya's collective punishment against our people there is unjustified. The opposition of the peace agreements between the PLO and Israel does not call for punishing the Palestinian people in this manner which conflicts with values and human rights and with the flamboyant pan- Arab slogans Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has been raising.

The ministry said that if the Libyan regime wants to bring pressure to bear on the United States which tightens the siege on Libya, it is illogical for it to do so with Palestinian hostages who have spent their lives building the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The ministry called for closing the deportation camps and allowing those who have travel documents and passports and whose work contacts have expired to return to the countries responsible for issuing these documents and to allow our people to transit without any harassment so that they may go back to their homeland.

The Information Ministry held the Israeli Government responsible for closing the borders of the Palestinian territories to the deported Palestinian families. The ministry said that the establishment of real peace requires the expeditious lifting of the Israeli veto in the face of those who have been forcibly kept away from their homeland.

Israel Urged To Halt Land Confiscation

TA0510174895 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Oct 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Taba Agreement and Palestinian Expectations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The signing of the agreement on the second stage of the Oslo declaration is supposed to mean the beginning of another stage in which the climate of peace is enhanced and in which the Palestinians in particular should feel a fundamental difference in the way the Israeli side deals with their problems. Previous methods pursued before the agreement was signed, in particular, and before the peace process was launched and the first interim agreement was reached, in general, should be abandoned.

One of the methods that the Palestinians expect Israel to abandon is land confiscation. Apparently, confiscation is going on. Reports have confirmed that the military authorities have decided to seize large tracts of land — extending 24 km — of Palestinian villages south of Nabulus. The reasons for the confiscation have not been given, nor have the ownership rights of the owners of these lands been honored.

Whether the confiscation of these lands is for building so-called bypass roads or for any other purpose, this measure contradicts the climate of peace and the Palestinian expectations from the Taba agreement, the signing of which was celebrated only a few days ago.

For its part, the Israeli side is supposed to provide all the causes that advance the peace process by halting the measures and confiscations on one the hand, and accelerating implementation of the agreement's provisions on the other hand. Specifically, the Palestinians view the issue of the prisoners' release with great sensitivity and interest, especially since the Israeli side has ignored the dates that it had set for this purpose. It has not yet begun the actual release of Palestinian prisoners

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despite the expectation of their families, in particular, and of Palestinian society, in general.

It is clear that implementation of the Taba agreement should be accompanied with a new Israeli approach conforming to the climate of peace and the positive expectations by all the parties concerned with the peace process.

PLO Asks UN for Continued Interest in Rights

JN0510114995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine mission at the Arab League has distributed a memorandum to all Arab countries and the Arab League mission in New York. The memorandum refers to the need for the committee that deals with the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights and the UN general secretariat's office on Palestinian rights continue their work until the Palestinian people regain all their legitimate national rights, Israeli forces complete their withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the issue of settlements is solved.

The memorandum stresses the need for the committee charged with monitoring Israeli practices in the occupied territories to continue its work for as long as Israel continues to occupy these territories and establish settlements on them. The mission calls on the Arab League to coordinate and consult with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, as host countries, and all the other Arab countries to keep the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] operational, especially with respect to issues which remain pending following Israel's attempts to have the United Nations limit its discussions of UNRWA affairs.

The Arab foreign ministers met in New York two days ago to discuss how to confront an Israeli proposal to cancel the international resolutions on Jerusalem. Israel circulated a memorandum to the UN General Assembly members in this respect.

Dr. Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, has stated that the Arab League and the PLO deem it necessary to maintain the resolutions on Jerusalem until this issue is resolved. The same applies to the committee tasked with the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights, and the UN general secretariat's office on Palestinian rights. He said these resolutions cannot be canceled as long as a definitive peace agreement approved by the UN Security Council has not been signed.

Ramallah Figure Voices Support for PA, Accord

TA0610051095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBI'S Translated Text] Hajj As'ad Hassuni, head of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has announced his complete support for the Palestinian Authority [PA] and for the agreement it signed with Israel. Our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar adds that Hajj As'ad Hassuni is head of the Islamic bloc on the management board of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce.

Speaker Says PNC To Convene Only in Jerusalem

TA0510160495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text) Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has affirmed that there is no connection between Jordan's withdrawal of temporary and permanent passports and the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya.

In a press conference held in Amman two days ago, al-Za'nun explained that the PNC has set up an operations room with the aim of acting on the Arab and international levels in order to find a solution to the problem of the deportees. He pointed out that no foreign country will be sought to receive them — either they return to their homeland or remain in Libya.

With regard to the PNC's meeting and modification of the Palestinian National Covenant, al-Za'nun said that the PNC is a parliament in exile which cannot convene anywhere inside [the territories] except in Jerusalem, since it is the permanent headquarters. As for the covenant's modification, first of all, our principles must be realized on the ground before we think about modification.

Al-Za'nun added that the invitation to convene the PNC cannot be realized by threats from the Israeli prime minister. Convening the PNC under the present circumstances calls for a comprehensive assessment of the peace process. Perhaps the PNC will find that this process has failed to ensure the Palestinian people's rights or the minimal Oslo principles.

Hamas Reconciliation Proposal Detailed

TA0610110495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent Yoni Menahem reports that three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders departed from the Gaza Strip, and another two from the West Bank.

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Our correspondent adds that according to the draft reconciliation agreement being worked out by Hamas, the organization agrees to abide by the laws of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and avoid any acts that would compromise it. The draft agreement has been relayed to PA representatives. The Hamas leaders from the territories are slated to discuss the agreement with the Hamas leadership abroad. It is still unclear whether the Hamas military arm accepts the proposal.

Dhiyab al-Lawh, one of the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip, says that the exit of the Hamas leaders to Jordan creates good chances for the success of the reconciliation move between the PA and Hamas.

Police Arrest Activists Involved in Shooting

TA0610090095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Palestinian police in Rafiah arrested 20 Hamas activists yesterday following separate attacks which killed a Palestinian guard and slightly wounded an Israeli policeman in the area on Tuesday.

The crackdown followed distribution of a leaflet by the Islamic Salvation Front, an unknown organization presumed linked with Hamas, which took responsibility for the attack on the Israeli policeman.

The same group is presumed responsible for the killing of guard Wahil Maghari, who chased three masked men who opened fire on the house of Brig. Gen. Mahmud Abu-Marzuq, head of the Palestinian civil defense. Maghari was killed after wounding one man when the other two returned fire.

Abu-Marzuq is the brother of Musa Abu-Marzuq head of the political department of Hamas, who is in the custody of New York police and whose extradition from the US to Israel was formally requested yesterday.

The attack on a leading PA official came during a lull in PA- Hamas tension. Although opposition to the Oslo 2 accord abroad had been sharp, Hamas attacks on the accord in Gaza had been low-key. [passage omitted]

Hamas Newspaper Allowed To Recommence Publication

TA0510162995 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — Yesterday morning the Palestinian National Authority allowed the management of AL-WATAN weekly, which is affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], to recommence publication following the recent closure which lasted about two months. The paper will renew publication soon.

'Imad al-Faluji, the paper's publisher, affirmed that the reopening of the paper was a positive step. He added: I hope the closure will not be repeated and that the press and publication law will be respected.

Al-Faluji called for the creation of a specialized body to review the journalists' affairs. He added that the newspaper will continue its policy, pursuing the same method and approach, and that it will continue to convey its objective message.

Al-Faluji explained that yesterday morning he had gone to the general Palestinian police headquarters and met with Colonel Talal Abu-Zayd who confirmed the decision to permit the paper to publish. He asked al-Faluji to sign a pledge to respect the press and publication law. Moreover, al-Faluji will be held directly responsible for everything written in AL-WATAN, whether articles or other items. He also pledged not to publish any article that violates public decency and incites the public, and to investigate the facts.

Canada Recognizes Passport as 'Official' Document

JN0510163795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Canadian Government today recognized the passport issued by the National Authority as an official document. This came during a meeting between Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, and the assistant Canadian foreign minister.

In the meantime, Faysal al-Husayni continues his official visit to Canada. He is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet and Deputy Foreign Minister Jordan Smith. Later on, al-Husayni will address the Canadian Non-Governmental Organizations conference. Tomorrow, he will head for the Canadian city of Toronto for a meeting with church leaders, leaders of Jewish communities, state officials, and the minister of development and international trade.

Al-Husayni earlier met with a number of Canadian officials with whom he discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the role of Canada in supporting the peace process.

In another development, (Alcode Lavardor), deputy assistant foreign minister, informed Dr. Bakir 'Abd-al-Muni'im, Palestinian ambassador to Canada, that he was accredited as a commissioner general of Palestine in Ottawa.

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Algeria

Booby-Trapped Car Explosion Kills 9 in Algiers

LD0510173595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security services statement has announced that nine people were killed and 19 others injured at noon today following the explosion of a booby-trapped car inside a car park at the Two Palm Trees Hotel in Draa Ben Khedda, Algiers. The explosion also caused considerable damage to the hotel.

On the other hand, it has been learned that Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour went to the site of the explosion accompanied by the director general of national security, according to a dispatch from the Algerian Press Agency.

Ministry Refutes Accusations on Journalist's Killing

LD0410231995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Information; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some private sector news media, exploiting the death of the late journalist Omar Ourtilan, strongly attacked the government and levelled wrongful accusations against it. These accusations are devoid of any truth, all the more since the officials in charge of these news media know very well that they are the first to benefit from state measures and that the state has allocated many secure places at their disposal [journalists live in guarded quarters]. The death of Algerians assassinated by the obscurantists [euphemism for fundamentalists], causes us deep pain and, therefore, any journalist falling to the bullets of terrorism causes us pain. But do we have to tell publishers, who often reserve their first pages for the savage acts [of the fundamentalists], that the point at issue are the acts of terrorism that spare neither women nor children. [passage omitted]

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MM0210125395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 19 Sep 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

What freedom of choice to expect when under a military boot?

Praise be to Allah,

The Junta stubbornness in wanting to rule the Algerian people by the policy of "iron and fire" hidden behind a veil of demagogy for international community consumption, can not go on for ever.

Playing with terminology which in the West may mean something concretely while the Junta is only using it as empty slogans to attract some international support while diabolizing its opponents.

What kind of democracy can one expect from those who have spent their lives in an environment where giving unchallenged orders is the norm? The Junta hierarchy is not as one may expect in a normal military institution where equity and the "rules above all" is implemented scrupulously. No, it has been a long time now since the military institution of that country has been purposely or not denuded of morality be it in the military sense. Queue jumping from the rank of Sergeant to that of General does not make people laugh any more given its frequent occurrence. How many competent officers were stuck at a given rank because of different political opinion, watching the "chosen ones" flying as meteorites from lower ranks to the top of the hierarchy. "Purging" of officers having "Islamist tendency" and pushing aside "true nationalist" officers has been the internal policy pursued since 1992 by the actual Junta Generals.

When the Junta waves "democracy", "freedom of people to chose their own leaders", "transparency", "multipartyism", "freedom of expression" etc..., it is just to improve the packaging of its product, "the Junta presidential elections", but as far as the content is concerned, it is still the same old "stinking" goal set in January 1992 that of "legitimating the illegitimacy".

Algeria is officially under the declared state of emergency and people are still subject to curfew while the Junta is trying to convince the international community that the Algerian people are free to decide on their destiny. Which freedom is the Junta talking about when according to Algerian and international human right organisations, torture is still systematic in the Junta police stations and other Junta torture centres? Which freedom is the Junta talking about when ten of thousands of Algerians youths are put away in the concentration camps in the Sahara desert, all of them without trial and many of them have been there for the last three and a half years? What freedom is the Junta talking about when it is the only one who refuses to let an independent enquiring team to investigate the daily civilian assassinations? What freedom the Junta is talking about when the REAL opposition which won plebiscite from the Algerian people in the free elections of December 1992, is not even allowed to contact the Algerian people freely? What freedom the Junta is talking about when newspa-

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pers are obliged by "law" to publish only official Junta reports on "violence" aimed at "diabolizmg" the Mujahidin? What freedom the Junta is talking about when the state TV and Radio are used exclusively by its propaganda machine without allowing a "minute space" to those who may differ from the Junta orientation even slightly?

Nobody believes that in two months time there will be "free elections". The Junta is not able to "bring" the situation to "normality". It does not even have the courage to give back to the Algerian people their freedom to travel inside their country by lifting the curfew never mind giving them their sovereignty of choosing their leaders!

Last January the REAL political opposition have put on the table a concrete plan to go back to "normality", it has been refused globally and in details by the Junta and disregarded by its sponsors. What it has not been said clearly enough is that what has been on the table yesterday will surely not be there tomorrow when the circumstances will be altered and definitely not in favour of the Junta stubbornness!

The system issued from the Military regime has an unwritten rule which says: "Never will a civilian governs a military man if the first wants to live longer and free"! Ben Bella and Boudiaf know about it!

In the theatre tonight!

"The Enlightenment" would first like to apologise to some of its readers who may find that there is no need in talking over and over again about what the Junta calls the "Presidential elections" since it is only a show. "The Enlightenment" agrees and it is why it has called this section "In the theatre, tonight", hoping to make it a bit pleasant for the readers. "The Enlightenment" however think that these "elections" will also have the effect of waking up a supplementary section of the Algerian people which may still have some doubt about the Junta and moreover it is convinced that these "elections" will be the grave of the regime, in Sh'a Allah, as illustrated in the following historical anecdote:

Lessons from History!

During the thirties and forties, there use to be an important Islamic organisation called "Association of Muslim scholars" (Jamiate Al Ulama). Amongst the scholars of the association was Shaykh Tayebi El Okbi who was very virulent in his meeting and speeches against all form of injustice at the top of which was the French colonialism. He was what one may say Shaykh Ali Belhadj of the forties or vice versa. His style has attracted him many harassments from the colonial authorities and even disciplinary actions from the association hierarchy under the leadership of Shaykh Abdelhamid Ben Badis and El Bachir El Ibrahimi. Of course the association had a specific agenda at that time when the simple teaching of the Koran language (Arabic) would automatically lead to a jail sentence. It did not want to give supplementary raisons for the colonialism to obstruct its work.

One day after a usual teaching class, Shaykh Tayebi El Okbi was walking with a group of students when they saw a French policemen ill treating an Algerian, beating him and insulting him in front of a crowd of Algerians who were watching passively. The group of students were ready to intervene but the Shaykh stopped them. The students got a bit angry and after the incident was over one of them could not hold it any more and asked the Shaykh: "We come to your khotbas (speeches) and courses and you are always talking about the necessity of kicking the colonialism out of our country because you say that it only understands this kind of language and now that we have been confronting a real case of injustice you tell us to let the policemen ill treat our brother in front of the Muslims? We do not understand!". Shaykh Tayebi El Okbi told his student: "yes let him ill treat your brother and let the Muslim see it so they may know the real unjust nature of the colonialism and one day they may wake up!". "The spread of this injustice is the one which is going to finish the colonialism!". And so it was and so will these "elections" finish the Junta in Sh'a Allah!

General Zeroual begs the Algerian people to believe the Junta!

In his "presidential" campaign, General Zeroual has made a speech to the Algerian people in which he said amongst other "electoral promises": "I promise in front of Allah and you in the name of all the state institutions that I will respect your choice!". And so did Chadli Bendjedid but it did not stop more than 50,000 Algerian people to be killed. Anyway the point is by saying that the General has admitted that the Algerian people choice was not respected in the past! One can not imagine that in another country where the choice of the people is respected, one saying to the people please come and vote we promise that your choice will be respected. It is assumed automatically but not in Algeria. This shows that the Junta has admitted that the Algerian people do not trust them and seemed to tell the Generals: "go do whatever you want, give yourselves a 30000 per cent of votes and leave us alone! There is only one door from which you will exit!".

If it is admitted that the Algeria people have been cheated on their rights, the issue is not for them to "come

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and play" another time but what is it going to be done to give them their rights back since the "thieves" are still walking freely in the ranks of the Junta.

Colonel Bencherif tries to fish in the FIS sea!

It is expected that the FIS issue will be used and abused during these so called "Presidential elections". All the candidates are expected to show a deep sympathy towards the FIS jailed leaders not because they have the feeling but because they know that the Algerian people in general are living the affliction of Shaykh Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, Abdelkader Hachani and all the brother and sisters in the Junta jails.

Colonel Bencherif, this other candidate has open the show by declaring that he will solve the crisis in six months and that he will hold dialogue with the Jailed FIS leaders not inside the Jail but outside. People are asking up to what "price" the "FIS leaders auction" is going to in between the candidates. Some have already predicted that General Zeroual will put the highest bid by transferring the FIS leaders to a (prison-) palace saying they are free but are guarded by the Junta troops for the safety of the leaders themselves!

Rules that do not work or are they meant to be that way!

The Junta, when drawing the rules for its "presidential elections" have said that every candidate needed 75,000 signatures from at least 25 departments of the 48 constituting Algeria. Up to now not a single candidate was able to met the criterion set up by the Junta. The Junta rule was also cleverly set as to allow the Junta military men to "exercise their civilian rights in terms of giving signatures" so as far as General Zeroual, the head of the Junta and its Defence minister is concerned, he can in a few hours, produce the requirement if he is treated as any other candidate that is! So he is not in a hurry to announce his candidature!

Egypt: Mubarak's regime dirty political trick against the Islamic Movement!

(Article from Political-Islam) CAIRO (Sep 18) — Moslem Brotherhood member Essam al-Eryan looked odd without his doctor's white coat. His colleagues — lawyers, engineers, teachers and former members of parliaments — had traded in business suits for prison garb. As leaders of the Moslem Brotherhood, their crime is daring to translate their Islamic faith into political action for the November parliamentary elections, diplomats and analysts say. Until recently, the Islamist laymen were outspoken, freely receiving journalists at their offices to explain their vision of an Islamic state. But on Sunday they were dragged to court in police vans and locked in iron cages like any other criminals. The Egyptian government has charged them with reorganising the Brotherhood, recruiting members, conspiring against the government and violating the constitution. But why did the government suddenly became so sensitive about Moslem Brotherhood activities which it had tolerated for years? Their statements have appeared in government newspapers and leading Brothers have even met government officials. The answer, the diplomats and analysts say, is simply the elections and forecasts that the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist organisation would do better than the government thinks comfortable. The government denies it. The Brotherhood has had a toehold in local government since elections in 1992 and is still planning to put up 94 candidates for the 444 parliamentary seats at stake in November. Analysts said the government, frightened of the success of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algerian elections in 1991, would never let the Brotherhood "get its foot in the political door." "What we are seeing is a careful, surgical and long-term campaign to weaken if not destroy the Brotherhood's political capability if not their social fabric," one diplomat said. "The government will do whatever it takes to keep the Brotherhood contained, so putting their key figures out of commission obviously weakens their political ability," he said. The Brotherhood, which has been officially banned in Egypt since 1954, cannot field candidates for elections under its own banner but its members can stand as independents or under the umbrella of recognised opposition parties. Egypt officially has a multiparty system but the ruling national Democratic Party, latest incarnation of the party that has governed since 1952, always win an overwhelming majority. The government began its slow but steady drive against the Brotherhood back in January. First, police rounded up 20 leaders and a few months before the elections, they picked up 150 more. Last month President Hosni Mubarak, accusing the Brotherhood of funding armed militants seeking to overthrow him and install a strict Islamic state, issued a decree referring the 49 to a military court, equating them with violent militants of the Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group). Their charges do not include any offences usually referred to military courts, such as murder, using arms and possessing explosives. Military trials tend to be quick and more severe than those in civilian courts. Verdicts cannot be appealed. The 49 standing trial appear to be carefully selected. At least seven are former members of parliaments and most are eligible and powerful contenders to win seats in the polls. Diplomats say the government is convinced the real threat to its power comes from the Brotherhood rather than from armed militants it has tamed through security measures. The Brotherhood has much deeper roots in Egyptian society and its conser-

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vative vision of Islam is spreading steadily and confidently, changing the character of Egyptian society. "The Brotherhood have the money and the influence. Their members are professionals. They are in the centre of the social stratum. They are legitimate, well-respected, accepted and liked in society," said one analyst. The Brotherhood alarmed the government after the Cairo earthquake of 1992 with the speed with which it helped the victims. It also won control of the associations of lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers, leading to a new law which made it much harder for them to win again.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Nation on War Anniversary

NC0510114295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0902 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak to the nation on the 22d anniversary of the 6 October 1973 war; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother citizens, brothers and sons who are members of the Armed Forces: Our celebration today of the anniversary of the glorious October war emphasizes the great values, meanings, and lessons that helped achieve this clear victory. That victory restored the dignity of the homeland and the glory of the Egyptian military. It raised the Arabs' heads high, rectified the march of history, and opened the door for a just and comprehensive peace to end the vicious circle of hatred and violence that exhausted the peoples of the region for more than half a century. [passage omitted]

Greetings to the valiant men who brought back the glories of the Egyptian military in one of the greatest battles in history. We praise their humane and civilized conduct. They adhered to the honor of military tradition in their courageous fight to defend the homeland and in their noble shunning of any act banned by international laws and conventions. [passage omitted]

The war crowned the Arabs' national struggle to regain their dignity. It established firm facts telling everyone that the Arabs would never be a corpse as some imagined, that the state of no-war no-peace could not continue forever, that power is not a monopoly by one side to the exclusion of the others, and that borders can be secured not by expansion, geographic barriers, or fortified posts, but by justice and respect of others' rights. The war redressed the balance of power, changed the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and imposed on the world the need to find a real solution to the Middle East crisis. It also opened the chances for peace wide to the peoples of the region so that they could start a new stage of coexistence and cooperation on the sound bases of mutual recognition, equal rights and duties, rejection of the claims of superiority and domination, and the acceptance of the land-for-peace principle.

These are the firm facts established by the October war. These facts will not be changed by the exercise of procrastination and delaying tactics. Peace cannot be established in the absence of a just and comprehensive solution that serves the interests of all sides. We trust that all sides are serious in their endeavors to reach this goal despite the massive obstacles and the desperate attempts by the enemies of peace on both sides to prevent the march of peace from reaching its noble objectives.

The right way to confront the enemies of peace is to proceed with the settlement, make serious efforts to remove all obstacles, engage in joint struggle against all forms of reciprocal violence, display courage in making decisions where there is no justification for delay, abide by the texts of the agreements, and show mutual understanding of the problems and circumstances of each side.

The victory of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples' determination, their acceptance of joint coexistence based on mutual recognition, their growing courage in facing the problems created by the enemies of peace, and their clear determination to proceed with settlement give us hope for a new Middle East that is more stable and more assured.

The road remains arduous and the dangers great. The enemies of peace are lying in wait. But the expansion of self-rule to include the West Bank and its villages, the departure of the occupation forces from the populated areas, and the election of the self-rule authority will strengthen the forces of peace, which continue to represent the majority of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

But peace efforts should proceed in parallel on all the negotiating tracks because a stagnating situation on any one track could harm the peace process, which should be comprehensive and should not exclude any party. Additionally, the historic reconciliation that will rearrange Middle East relations on new bases will be impossible if it does not include Arab parties whose sincere stands on the peace process we do not doubt.

Brothers and sisters. The priorities of our contemporary world have changed. The world is entering a new era that rules out war and violence and urges coexistence and dialogue between cultures. It opens the way for peoples to compete in contributing to the progress of great human achievement. One of the possibly great

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effects of the October war is that it gave strong hope in the belief that a just and comprehensive peace will inevitably triumph because it is the demand of all peoples and the objective of all the forces seeking to create glory and progress. The war changed the priorities of the peoples in the region when it provided them with the right climate for establishing a historic reconciliation that heals the wounds of the past and opens the way to a better future.

The victory of the determination to have peace in the Middle East after a long period of war and destruction is a victory for the will of its peoples, who want to devote their resources to development and reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Minister on Mubarak's Supreme Council Meeting

NC0510134095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)— Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, made a statement after President Husni Mubarak's meeting with the Armed Forces Supreme Council at the Defense Ministry today. He said that during the two-hour meeting the president was reassured about the Armed Forces' capability, development, and combat efficiency. Praising the Armed Forces, the president said that they are the vanguards of the Egyptian people and that he is confident of their capabilities, Tantawi said.

We reassured the president that we are on the right course with his excellency's plan to develop the Armed Forces, the defense minister said. He added that the president briefed the Supreme Council on various developments at the international and national levels.

The president also dealt with his recent trip to the United States, affirming that the governments and people of the world respect Egypt's pioneering role, both in peace and in other periods.

The defense minister added that the president spoke about domestic conditions and the current stability and development Egypt is witnessing in various fields, primarily economic ones.

Field Marshal Tantawi pointed out that President Mubarak is always careful to keep the Egyptian people and the Armed Forces Supreme Council abreast of various domestic and foreign situations.

Musa on Peace Issue, Iraq, UNSC Seat, Sudan

MM0510145895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given: "Opponents of Peace are Brandishing Slogans Which Will Not Restore Palestinian Land; Saddam's Remaining in Power Is Up to the Iraqis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] When will the peace process be complete?

[Musa] Which one? The Palestinian-Israeli or the comprehensive peace?

[Matar] Both?

[Musa] I imagine it will be within three to four years.

[Matar] I mean from a political viewpoint?

[Musa] No. From a political viewpoint, if there is progress on the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track, then as far as peace is concerned, it will be a sure path and matters will have evolved from phase to phase. However, if the deadlock on the Syrian track and the lack of movement on the Lebanese track continue, the peace process, as a whole, will not work.

I must point out here that the peace process is nourished through the Palestinian-Israeli track.

[Matar] But the Palestinian track has numerous shortcomings.

[Musa] There is no agreement that could be called the best deal, not even the Camp David agreement, but it led to a complete withdrawal from Sinai and helped to reactivate the issue of self- rule and Palestinian issue. What we have now are interim [marhaliyah] agreements and not final ones.

If you look at where the Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian government were one or two years ago, and where they are now, you will see that there is definite progress. However, the all-or-nothing talk, the chants and slogans, and so on, all this is idle talk. The important thing is to take your rights, even if it is piecemeal.

I agree with you that the agreement has many shortcomings. This is true, but we have Palestinian elections and Israeli withdrawal, and we have a timetable for expansion of the territories under Palestinian authority, from only Gaza and Jericho to Gaza, Jericho, Nabulus, Ramallah, etc.... There is a bright side to this agreement.

[Matar] With the bright side, there is also the dark side, such as 400 settlers in Hebron, and settlements everywhere on Palestinian territory, Israeli powers exercised

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inside the territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority, and some other things.

[Musa] No, that is not all. But I agree with you. You can pinpoint out many shortcomings, but what alternative is there?

[Matar] I am not talking about these shortcomings. I am asking from the perspective that they might be mines that would eventually blow the process apart. Is this not correct?

[Musa] These are conjectures. We are talking about shortcomings and obstacles. But what is the alternative? Do you have an alternative?

[Matar] But if settlers in one of the areas or cities did something crazy and attacked some Palestinians, what would happen?

[Musa] Nothing; very simply, if such an attack took place, there would be a similar attack by the Palestinians on them.

[Matar] Then we return to the state of war and blow peace apart?

[Musa] This type of talk is what many people hope for. We hope that this will not be undertaken by either side, because there must be progress on the Palestinian track, and there will be progress on the Palestinian track, even if opponents chant and brandish slogans. All these slogans are futile. What is useful is to have a territory governed by Palestinians and entire Palestinian cities controlled fully by the Palestinian Authority and administration.

[Matar] What is hindering the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Musa] We shall see this week after the meeting between the Syrian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state today, and we hope there will be progress after it.

[Matar] Do you expect new proposals to be put forward?

[Musa] I cannot be specific about this, but I know that the meeting will take place and that the various elements of the issue will be discussed. This in itself is a good sign.

[Matar] There has been no real progress on this track as far as details are concerned, and the talk has been about generalities. This means that there is still the problem of trust. The Americans do not enter diplomatic battles with conviction when elections are approaching. Will this track have to wait until after the elections?

[Musa] This is indeed possible, but not logical.

[Matar] Illogical politically, but what about the nature of things?

[Musa] No, logic dictates that progress should be achieved in the coming months, and there is noting to prevent that.

[Matar] Is Iraq still the cause of Arab disagreements?

[Musa] That is true.

[Matar] How can that be tackled?

[Musa] This is a complex matter, and cannot be dealt with easily. An obstacle did exist, which was the recognition of Kuwait, but this has now been done. No doubt that this is a very important step from Iraq. There are also the reports of the [UN] Special Commission, which will also be important. There is also the plight of the Iraqi people which must be seriously considered, and we hope that Ekeus submits his report and there is a positive recognition of progress so that the doors are open at least to top up the shortages.

[Matar] Are there people who want Iraq partitioned?

[Musa] We will adopt a serious stand against anyone seeking or any attempt to partition Iraq, because this will lead to unrest spreading dangerously again over the whole Middle East region. We, as Arabs and as Egypt, do not accept that. I am not just saying that we do not accept for the sake of saying it, I am saying that we do not accept it and that we mean what we say.

[Matar] Your talk implies that there is someone who wants to partition Iraq?

[Musa] Perhaps. I do not want to refer to specific examples or incidents, but the threat is there.

[Matar] Egypt, Iran, Turkey, and Syria have adopted a united stand on Iraq. Why do you not coordinate among you?

[Musa] If it is a united stand, why is coordination needed?

[Matar] To prevent partitioning.

[Musa] No, it is not only those states that you mentioned which are against the partitioning of Iraq. All the Arab states are opposed to it, and even in our talks with Western states there is opposition to it.

[Matar] Does this talk of partitioning Iraq remind you of the seventies talk of partitioning Lebanon?

[Musa] No, No, No.... This is serious talk and not a joke. The partitioning of Iraq opens a box of surprises, mostly dangerous.

[Matar] Is there someone apart from the Kurds who is thinking of that?

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[Musa] I am not talking about any particular side. I am talking about this issue in general.

[Matar] Does Iran still represent a threat to the region?

[Musa] No, Nu[illegible] represents a threat to the region is any reckless [illegible] action from any quarter.

[Matar] Does Saddam Husayn's remaining in power represent a threat to the region?

[Musa] These are personal questions which I will not answer.

[Matar] But conditions for lifting the sanctions are linked to Saddam' staying in power.

[Musa] The issue of Saddam Husayn and whether he remains or does not remain in power is up to the Iraqis and does not depend on what others think.

[Matar] The helpless Iraqis?

[Musa] Every country has its own circumstances.

[Matar] Is it true to say that Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986 means an acceptance of the fact that the plight of the Iraqi people will continue?

[Musa] The Iraqis say that this issue is linked to the issue of sovereignty, authority, and dealings with a part of Iraq, which would result in a de facto division along racial and practical lines. Many Arabs see this as a mistake, because it should be exploited to alleviate the Iraqi people's burden. We would like to help in alleviating this burden, and this will be the subject of Arab talk these days.

[Matar] Finally, how will the exchange of roles with Libya in the membership of the Security Council take place?

[Musa] This is not relevant at present. What is relevant is the issue of Libya's position, and the perception and assessment of the situation in the General Assembly in view of the elections.

[Matar] Do you have any doubts about Libya's desire to keep the Arab seat in the Security Council?

[Musa] No we have no doubts, and we must not have any doubts.

[Matar] You must not, but?

[Musa] But we must not have any doubts concerning this. Therefore, we do not doubt it, and consequently the only thing that matters is to keep the Arab seat.

[Matar] What about your relations with Sudan?

[Musa] Our relations with Sudan depend on the policy of supporting terrorism and terrorists. There are no other problems. While there are accusations leveled at Sudan by Ethiopia and, most seriously, the accusations of the UN secretary general and the OAU, which is an extremely serious matter concerning an assassination attempt on a head of state. This is no joking matter. The sponsorship of terrorism and the interaction of policy with terrorist policy shows the lack of responsibility on the part of the policy and politicians. This is what has harmed greatly Sudan's name and people.

Musa Says Situation on Libyan Border 'Thorny'

NC0510164095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the situation on the Egyptian-Libyan border, where many Palestinians are present, as "thorny." He added that the contacts Egypt has held in this regard have led to no results.

In remarks today Musa stressed that Egypt will hold further contacts with Libya in this connection and that an Egyptian envoy is expected to travel to Libya to discuss the situation on the Egyptian-Libyan border and other issues. He added that the current situation on the border is "very regrettable and thorny too." He pointed out that the camps set up for the Palestinians are inside Libyan territory. He added: The expulsions were ordered by Libya and the circumstances need to be known.

Regarding economic and political cooperation between Israel and the Arab states as part of the peace process and whether this would weaken the Arab negotiator, Musa noted that there must be a political framework for any regional arrangements. He referred to the progress made on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the recent agreement between the two sides to expand self-rule in the West Bank. He added: We are awaiting the results of the meetings between Syria and Israel today [as received]. This negotiating track (?must be) given attention, particularly as we are approaching the Amman economic summit on 29 October at which economic cooperation will be discussed, he added. He stressed that regional economic and political cooperation are closely related, not to mention the security aspect. [passage omitted]

Musa described as extremely important the Morocco meeting of the Islamic Contact Group on 12 October to discuss Bosnia. He noted that things in Bosnia are relatively quiet and that there are changes in the situation.

Asked about his recent meeting in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the Egyptian POW's and whether there is anything new in this regard, Musa said: There is nothing new so far.

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Defense Minister Views Ties With Sudan

NC0610075695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi stressed that Egypt has special features that affect its national security, such as its unique strategic position, its cultural status in the Arab and African worlds, and its connections with the developing world countries, all of which increase the burdens on its security.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM published today, he said that the increase in the tempo of international and regional changes and their effects on the region's political and economic conditions have created a number of direct and indirect dangers and threats to Egypt's national security. He added that these dangers include the imbalance in the military balance in the Middle East, the lack of control over conventional weapons, the disregard for linking this to the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and the overlooking of some countries' massed weapons. He then noted that this defect in the balance of power and the continuing unfair military build-up in the region's countries are increasing tension to a level that will be difficult to control later. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on whether Sudan poses a threat to Egypt, Field Marshal Tantawi said: Sudan is a neighboring Arab country and its people have always been friends of our country. Talking about Sudan gives us feelings of brotherhood and historic relations. We are separated only by what international laws and charters drew up for the 22nd parallel.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi', Tantawi went on to say: Sudan's ruling regime, which is controlled by al-Turabi's front, is an ideological and extremist one that adopts stands which directly harm the interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. They target Egyptian interests and range from ill treating Egyptian diplomats to the seizure of Egyptian properties in Sudan—which were built in the first place to serve and help the fraternal Sudanese people.

He added: The fingers of accusation are pointing to the Sudanese regime's role in exporting terrorism to Egypt and neighboring countries. This became clear from the confessions made by arrested defendants who came from terrorist camps in Sudan. He stressed that the Sudanese regime is posing a major threat to Egypt's national security and to stability in the region. But, he added, Sudan cannot threaten Egypt militarily and we take this well into consideration.

Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that the notion of military action against Sudan is ruled out despite the latter's attacks on Egyptian interests. He noted that Egypt respects international legitimacy and does not interfere in the internal affairs of neighboring countries. He denied that Egypt has massed its troops on the borders with Sudan and described these allegations as mere fabrications by the ruling regime in Sudan.

The Egyptian defense minister asserted that the Hala'ib, Abu Ramad, Shalatayn triangle is totally Egyptian and that all the state's sectors are now helping develop it. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on a possible reduction in U.S. aid to Egypt, Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that the Armed Forces have alternatives and appropriate and effective plans if this happens. He said that the programs to develop the Armed Forces will continue according to plans that take into account future changes.

He also stressed that Egypt's joint interests with the United States make the latter cooperate with Egypt's programs and plans to maintain the region's security and safety. He noted in this regard the need for Egypt to be capable of maintaining and protecting peace in the region.

Regarding Egyptian forces in Bosnia, the Egyptian defense minister said that these troops are operating within the framework of the UN. He added: We have no objection to their continued deployment to help with humanitarian missions as long as there is a need for Egyptian troops.

NPUG Issues Election Program

NC0510172095 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Sep 95 pp 8-9

["Text" of the program of the NPUG for the 1995 People's Assembly elections; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political and Democratic Reform: The experience of all countries has proved that democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability and progress of society and a basic guarantee against moving backward.

In light of major world movement toward democracy, and with Egyptian society moving toward capitalism and unleashing market forces in economic activity, it is no longer possible to impose restrictions on political freedoms and delay the establishment of a democratic society. The freedom of economic activity offered to capitalists must be matched by political freedom for all forces and classes, especially those harmed by the economic and social policies, such as laborers, peasants,

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civil servants, producers in general, the middle class, and the majority of women and young men.

From this premise, our political struggle seeks to achieve democratic, legislative, executive, and civil reforms that would ensure basic rights for the Egyptian citizen. These rights must be actually respected by society, the security services, and the constitutional, political, and executive institutions in a way that will ultimately lead to a national democratic authority replacing the current authority.

The essence of the political and democratic reform to which we aspire is to practically open the road to the possibility of a peaceful rotation of power through general elections. Otherwise, we stand the risk of subjecting society to violence. Closing the door to peaceful democratic change opens the door to violence and creates the proper climate for increased activity by coupist and terrorist groups. The NPUG [National Progressive Unionist Grouping] believes that political and democratic reform can be achieved through an integrated process, not merely through partial measures. At this stage, this requires the following:

—To respect the civil rights of the Egyptian citizen. These rights are represented by providing guarantees for the citizen's personal security and the sanctity of his house and private life by refraining from eavesdropping on him or violating his personal secrets. They are also represented by refraining from harming the citizen physically or morally, by treating him well in police stations and government departments, and by toughening the punishments for violation of these rights and freedoms.

—To respect and entrench social rights. This is basically represented by granting equal rights to citizens and ensuring their rights to education, medical treatment, and housing. Without these rights, man cannot live as a good citizen in society.

—To ensure the basic rights of Egyptians, especially freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association, and the right to peaceful demonstrations and strikes without restrictions or hindering conditions.

—To abolish and amend the arsenal of laws restricting freedoms and to confine the declaration of an emergency to states of war and public disasters.

—To realize the people's right to free and fair elections and to respect their full will through ballot boxes by providing complete judicial supervision of elections and referendums and by subjecting all agencies dealing with ballots to the judiciary committee supervising the elections. This is also done by issuing a new law for political rights, unifying election systems for all parliamentary and representative councils, preparing new name lists matching the civil registration record and the national figure system when it is put into practice, and allowing the voter to cast his vote using identity or family cards while obtaining his signature or finger prints on the election list. Strict punishment must be imposed on attempts to rig, interfere with, or tamper with elections.

—To grant freedom to establish political parties on sound democratic bases and to abolish restrictions imposed on parties' political and mass activities.

—To repeal all forms of merging the state's establishments and organs with the ruling party' organs so as to ensure that the state will belong to all Egyptians and not to a single party.

—To repeal the current ban on political action in universities, schools, and factories.

—To give labor and professional organizations, cooperative societies, and democratic organizations of craftsmen the full freedom to practice their activities according to bylaws they draw up themselves and elect their management boards without interference from the administrative organs or any other authority, and to underline the independence of labor, student, and cooperative movements.

—To repeal Law 32 of 1964 and lift the restrictions on forming non-governmental societies and on their activities.

—To provide guarantees of judicial fairness to citizens, facilitate court procedures, repeal all forms of extraordinary courts, and make the trial of civilians before military courts impermissible.

—To intensify the efforts to stop torture in prisons, detention centers, and police stations, to stop the collective punishment campaigns, repeal the prisons' affiliation with the Interior Ministry, grant citizens the right to file criminal lawsuits directly with the judiciary in cases of torture, repeal the State Security Prosecution Office and extraordinary courts, and adopt the system of the investigating judge.

—To turn local government into real popular local government based on the election of all local councils and the direct election of governors, mayors, and heads of districts, cities, and villages.

—To amend the Constitution after a transitional period during which public freedoms and honest elections are achieved so as to strengthen the regime's democracy, limit the absolute powers of the president, elect him

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and his deputies from among more than one candidate through direct free elections, make him and his deputies abandon their partisan activities during their terms in office, make their re-election impermissible except for one more term, repeal Article 74 of the Constitution in order to prevent the abuse of the grave authorizations it grants, assert the parliamentary assembly's full right to amend the public budget and withdraw confidence from the government, repeal the public prosecutor system, and set up an independent judiciary committee that cannot be dismissed to supervise general and local elections.

—To liberate radio and television from the control of the ruling regime and party and turn them into an independent media organ whose management represents all the intellectual, partisan, and political trends and repeal censorship other than that dealing with public morals.

—To enact a new law for the press and journalists that will give Egyptians the right to publish newspapers, free the newspapers owned by the Consultative Council from the government's control and turn them into democratic institutions based on dialogue between all trends and views, repeal the harsh penalties that restrict freedom and prevent the press from practicing its role of providing information, criticism, and popular control, and repeal Law 93 of 1995 and the press authority law.

—To protect the serious national culture and national heritage, underline the right of writers, authors, artists, and intellectuals to freedom of expression and democratic organization, protect the freedom of research and study in all scientific and university centers, respect the plurality of intellectual views and freedom to create in order to enable noble human values to be expressed freely, and give the upper hand to reason and fight the decadent consumer culture that propagates subservience and advocates violence, bigotry, racism, and Zionism and the dubious calls that distort the true concept of the divine religions' tolerance. [passage omitted]

Under worsening socioeconomic conditions, the absence of democracy, widespread corruption, and the security agencies' failure to abide by the law, it was not strange for the terrorist groups that used religion as a cover to find fertile soil to consolidate their influence and ability to recruit new elements to use them as tools to spread panic and terror and expand the scope of the bloody confrontation. The unenlightened streams, exercising both armed terrorism and intellectual terrorization under the cloak of religion, thrived, creating a need for a program for comprehensive confrontation relying on the following:

—Asserting the need for a state and a democratic civilian society that relies on a civilian constitution and legal code and stresses citizenship rights for all citizens and equality for all regardless of sex, religion, creed, or color;

—Drawing on the principles of Islamic shari'ah in civilian legislation and converting that into real stances acting on the logic that the larger part of Islamic legislation is variable rather than unalterable;

—Abstaining from accepting the approach of denying the other [al-akhar] in any stream or group;

—Strongly pressing the case of democracy throughout society, unleashing political and intellectual pluralism, releasing the freedom of expression, views, and creativity, and incriminating the act of confiscating this freedom in the name of religion or through an alleged religious authority that does not exist in true Islam;

—Opening up new scope for enlightened Islamic thought in all locations to refute the wrong statement adopted by the groups that use religion as a cover on issues like the paganism of society [jahiliyyat al-mujtama'] or labelling the rulers or the ruled as atheists, explaining the correct meaning of jihad and the Muslims' community, and pointing out the correct position on nationalism, pan-Arabism, democracy, and secularism;

—Introducing rudimental changes in education curricula to develop democratic upbringing in schools and universities, the mentality of criticism, and the ability to discuss and weigh up varying views and amending Islamic and Christian religious education methods in a way that preserves national unity and consolidates the sound concepts of heavenly religions;

—Opening the media to all streams and affiliations, cleansing it of whatever fragments national unity or spreads the practice of repudiation and eliminating whatever affects Christians negatively;

—Urging a remedy for the causes of tension and violence in society, be they economic, social, political, or security; and,

—Consolidating the sound security approach to handling the escalating criminal terrorist activity and ascertaining that the security organs abide by the law and the Constitution and the principles of human rights and avoid the mistake of abandoning their role as a state establishment that safeguards the security of society and becoming an apparatus that practices mass torture and oppression, murder, and indiscriminate killing outside the law.

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National unity has always been the mainstay in protecting the homeland and consolidating its progress and stability. All the Egyptians—Muslims and Christians—have contributed equally to building this homeland and achieving all the progress it has made.

This national unity is currently suffering from excesses, some official and others committed by the forces of terror that use religion as a cover. Hence, there is a need for a serious national effort to protect this unity through the following:

—A nationwide campaign to make the people sensitive to the values of national unity as a pressing necessity to which all the media, particularly the radio and television, should contribute;

—The State starting things off by eliminating discrimination in its official practices to achieve the principle of equality among all citizens when it comes to jobs, building houses of worship, or other rights; and,

—Firmly applying the legal stipulation that bans any assault on heavenly religions to whoever spreads a spirit of fanaticism, which is totally alien to true religion.

The Arab disintegration and the tilted balance of power in the region are now being exploited in the interest of Israel. Things are being rearranged to guarantee Israel a leading and increasingly influential role at the expense of Egypt and its Arab responsibilities. A new Middle Eastern regional order is being built on the debris of the Arab regional order. This requires that Egypt immediately resume its historic role in backing the independent development of Arab states, restoring Arab solidarity, and creating sufficient foundations for the resumption of common Arab action by giving priority to er-Arab coordination in the face of Israel and the U.S. schemes and safeguarding common Arab interests. This responsibility is not to be separated from Egypt's other duties toward Africa and the Third World, thus serving the goals of development and progress for the Arab peoples. This can be attained as follows:

1. Egypt must play an effective role to sidestep the negative results of the inter-Arab wars and conflicts, foreign intervention, and economic pressure that have caused division, impotence, and deterioration in Arab capabilities. This can begin by remedying Arab contradictions and conflicts in a peaceful and democratic way that highlights common Arab interests.

2. Mobilizing Arab resources and capabilities to set up an Arab economic bloc, confirming the principle of collective Arab self- reliance, in response to the schemes of the Middle East market and in an attempt to alleviate the damage that could result from compliance with GATT.

3. Erasing the destructive effects of the Camp David Accords, rejecting normalization with Israel, and standing up to the Arab and governmental rush toward normalization, as demonstrated by the convening of conferences, exchange of visits, conclusion of agreements, and establishment of joint ventures with Israel, which harm the interests of the Arab peoples as well as prospects for establishing a just peace in the region.

4. Calling on the people to boycott Israel economically and culturally until it reveals all the facts relating to the murder of Egyptian POW's and until a just and comprehensive peace is attained based on respect for the Palestinian people's right to their own state and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories on all fronts.

5. Demanding an international trial of the Zionist war criminals who killed Egyptian POW's and ensuring that this crime does not go unpunished under the statute of limitations.

6. Ending Egypt's deficient sovereignty over Sinai, revoking the U.S. facilities and presence as well as the early warning stations on its territory, and suspending the U.S. and Zionist projects that infiltrate Sinai.

7. Rejecting extending the al-Salam Canal to Israel so as not to waste Egypt's limited share of Nile water, of which we need every drop.

8. Adopting measures to face the possible reduction or suspension of U.S. aid to Egypt.

9. Supporting the Palestinian people's struggle to affirm their right to self-determination and establish their independent national state on their land, confronting the criminal attempts to annihilate the Palestinians and violate and control the Islamic and Christian sacred sites, ensuring that differences among Palestinian organizations do not reach the brink of civil war, protecting the Palestinian peoples, and developing the Palestinians' capabilities in the face of Israeli occupation and oppression.

10. Demanding an immediate end to the embargo imposed on the Iraqi and Libyan peoples.

11. Eliminating all weapons of mass destruction in the region, chief among them Israel's arsenal of nuclear, chemical, and germ weapons.

12. Developing Egypt's policy toward Africa by maintaining sound relations with the countries of the Nile basin to safeguard Egypt's rights in the Nile water and promoting a policy of integration through which economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation with the African peoples and countries can be consolidated.

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13. Handling Egyptian-Sudanese relations in a way that emphasizes the special nature of the ties between the two brotherly peoples and their mutual interests, safeguarding the unity of Egyptian soil, and protecting the security of the homeland and the citizens in a way that does not push political differences and tension with the Sudanese authority to the brink of military warfare.

14. Struggling with Arab and international quarters to end the massacres and ethnic cleansing as part of the ongoing conflict among the Serbs, Croats, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and protecting the Bosnian people from Serbian genocide.

Envoy Comments on Moscow's Role in Peace Process

TA0610050595 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 2 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Gudev, Russian ambassador to Egypt, by 'Ali Khamis in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Khamis] The Arab intellectual believes that there is a Russian-U.S.-Israeli rapprochement at the expense of the overall Russian-Arab relationship. What is your comment?

[Gudev] There is no basis to this whatsoever. The Russian Federation has its own policy in international affairs, in the Middle East region, and in the Arab region. Naturally, we have national interests in the region, and the defense of those interests is the essence of our policy in the Middle East.

The Russian side is keen on preserving those interests with all the peoples of the Middle East and for these peoples to end the long confrontation. This confrontation has caused a drain of human resources and has prevented the region's development, progress, and prosperity.

True, Russia has restored its diplomatic relations with Israel, but not at the expense of its relationship with the Arab states. The Russian Federation highly values its relations with the Arab countries and is keen on consolidating and developing those relations while taking into account the new conditions in the world and the region.

[Khamis] Is it true that Russia has left the U.S. Administration to handle the peace process and no longer has an active role?

[Gudev] Russia and the United States play the role of sponsor of the peace process in accordance with the Madrid conference. Each sponsor has a role in helping to dev?lop the peace process. To the extent that this role requires Russian economic, political, and diplomatic potential, all the political capabilities are utilized to encourage Israel and the other parties concerned to advance toward peace. This is done by relying on the historical and ancient relations between Russia and the Arab countries and through the present contacts with Israel.

The Russian Federation has conveyed more than once to the Israeli leadership Russia's principled approach in the peace process. I believe that the Russian viewpoint is taken into account by the Israeli leadership and the Palestinians. Russia is holding daily contacts with the Palestinian leadership to find the means for a Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

It is not possible to export international policy, especially Middle East policy, through confrontation between Russia and the United States, as was the case in the past.

Now partnership has replaced confrontation between Russia and America. We are utilizing this partnership in the interest of establishing peace in the Middle East. There are many points of similarity within the framework of this partnership and in the recognition of these objectives by the peoples of the Middle East region.

It is incorrect to depict a similarity in events and positions as a dependency of Russian policy on U.S. policy; rather, the contrary is true. The Russian Federation acts within the context of what the Madrid conference dictates. Accordingly, Russia and the United States have adopted their specific positions and publicly proclaimed policies. [passage omitted]

Uzbek Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0510161695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit of several days. During the visit the Uzbek minister will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on ways to promote bilateral relations. They will discuss issues of mutual interest.

Delegation Leaves For IMF, World Bank Meetings

NC0610092895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—A large economic delegation left Cairo for Washington this morning. The delegation will attend the IMF and World bank's annual meetings, which will last until 12 October, to discuss requirements for future cooperation and Egypt's economic reform.

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The delegation consists of Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs; Minister of Finance Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; and Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation.

Writer Praises Yasir 'Arafat's 'Great Courage'

NC0510190695 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 16

[Mustafa Amin's "Idea" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The last chapter in the Palestine story has not yet been written. Many chapters remain. Only the first chapter is complete. More will follow.

The opponents of the peace agreement will not back down. Yasir 'Arafat's success will merely strengthen their enmity and vengefulness. They will regard this success as national treason, declare war again, persist in their enmity, and cast stones at the man who has led the Palestinian revolution for so many years. All the powers conspired against him, most countries fought him, and even some of his countrymen ridiculed him. Whenever he fell silent they blamed him; when he spoke they rebuked him. If he stood up they shouted at him to sit down and if he sat down they criticized him for sitting. Those who failed to destroy him politically will now try to kill him with bullets. I know of no other Arab leader who has been subjected to as much danger, insult, and humiliation as Yasir 'Arafat. They claimed he was a traitor, an agent who sold Palestine to the Jews, liquidated the Palestinian cause, submitted to Zionism, and went down on his knees before colonialism. They left no dishonorable accusation; they tried to stick them all on him.

The man bore all this with great courage. When he saw the stones falling on him he pretended they were flowers and refused to give up his optimism. Besieged by defeat he refused to despair or surrender but persevered and was confident that victory was near. His friends and supporters abandoned him and stuck their daggers in his back. Instead of collapsing and rolling in his blood he pretended that the red blood was the lipstick left by kisses from female admirers.

Some people will urge 'Arafat to step down now that he has completed his role. I urge him to stay and endure. The road is still long and hard, full of obstacles and pitfalls. All I hope is that he will not become a dictator, but continue to believe in democracy, freedom of the press, and human rights.

Numerous leaders have been turned into despots by their victory. Each one who dug a grave for freedom was himself buried in it. Each one who believed in freedom lives forever.

Libya Denounced for Deporting Palestinians, Arabs

NC0610100695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 10

["Close-up" Column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Libya...until when?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Libya has continued its policy of deporting thousands of Palestinians, Sudanese, and other Arabs, ignoring appeals and protests from several Arab countries. Despite the promises made by Libya's envoy at the recent meetings of the Arab League Council to stop the collective deportations of the last few weeks, it still appears that the Libyan leadership is determined to proceed with its declared plans. Increasing numbers of these deported refugees have continued to arrive at the Libyan-Egyptian and Libyan-Sudanese borders to inhuman conditions and this has created concern among international organizations.

Egypt will certainly be among the first countries to suffer the consequences of this erratic, incomprehensible, and unjustified Libyan policy when several thousands Palestinian deportees gather on its borders. The Libyan authorities had in the first place allowed these Palestinians to enter their territories to work in their schools, hospitals, and shops. Then these same authorities decided suddenly and out of the blue to dispense with their services and issued orders to deport them. These measures have included large numbers of Egyptians, but the Egyptian authorities have preferred not to denounce these actions and to deal with their consequences with a large measure of reservation and secrecy out of concern for Egyptian-Libyan relations. But until when?

The reason given by the Libyan authorities is that they are dispensing with jobless workers in the country and those without work permits because their presence is affecting the job opportunities available to Libyans themselves. But it is most certain that the majority of these workers entered Libya at the latter's request and their expulsion has something to do with denying them their rights and not paying their wage arrears in a way that is a form of "thuggery." The same did happen in the past with thousands of Egyptian workers whose rights were disregarded by the Libyan authorities and were restored only after the intervention of the International Labor Organization and lengthy Egyptian-Libyan negotiations.

Thousands of Palestinians have now been deported to protest the agreement reached by the PLO and Israel in

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order to embarrass and pressure the Palestinian National Authority and to spite Israel, the United States, and those who supported the agreement. Regardless of the Libyan stand on the whole peace process, tampering with the fate of thousands of Palestinian families and using them as pressure cards in political maneuvers violate all ethical principles and human rights. These pressure cards will not influence Israel or the United States and will not change the U.S. stand on the embargo or the Lockerbie crisis.

The only outcome of such policies is to make several Arab parties stop supporting Libya and backing it in its crisis with the west. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi might not care about this because it is the Libyan people who are paying the price.

Authorities Held Responsible for Death of POW's

MM0510192695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Ayman al-Zawahiri Accuses Arab Regimes Of Being The Cause Of POW's Murder"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Jihad Group in Egypt, who lives in Switzerland, has held Arab regimes responsible for the killing of Egyptian and Arab POW's by Israeli soldiers and officers. He sharply attacked the July revolution regime in Egypt.

Al-Zawahiri wrote an article in the AL-MUJAHIDUN bulletin published by the Jihad group in Switzerland of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy. The article said: "The ones who raised the issue are the Jews themselves, so where has our government, which claims to care for the safety of its people, been all those years? And why did it not raise the issue of the missing persons and the POW's in any previous negotiations with the Jews?"

Al-Zawahiri vehemently attacked the July revolution regime, saying that "the real cause of the murder and suffering of these POW's is the catastrophes that have afflicted the nation as a result of the military regime, whose dealings with the Israelis were characterized by two things: First, it never sought to eliminate Israel. In fact it never sought to fight Israel. Actually Israel managed every time to drag the regime into the battlefield and to crush its bones in the war. This is one of the facts of the Arabs' contemporary history, and the documents and agreements of the truce and the UN resolutions are there for everyone to see. Second, when that clique was forced to fight Israel, it fought it with corrupt armies that tended to sanctify the leaders and enslave soldiers. As a result, corruption spread in these armies, and they returned from every battle with a catastrophe."

Al-Zawahiri reviewed the experiences of the wars with Israel in 1948, 1956, and 1967. And even in "1973, namely when Anwar al-Sadat gathered his courage and crossed the canal, he soon offered peace and collapsed completely after the Jews' penetration of the Army, hence the disengagement negotiations that led to the capitulation treaties."

Concluding, al-Zawahiri said that that leadership "was always remote from the destruction of Israel, despite the lies of its media. It led the nation from one catastrophe to another until Israel took control of the region." He wondered: "Why are we now weeping over hundreds of POW's killed by the Jews? Did we expect any mercy, compassion, gallantry, or nobility from the Jews? And why did we allow these regimes to lead us to these successive catastrophes?"

Group of 'Extremists' Freed After Repenting

NC0510152195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—The members of a second batch of 353 extremists, who have declared their repentance, responded to advice and guidance, discovered the falsehood of their conduct, returned to the teachings of tolerant Islam, and renounced the extremist ideology, were released from the Tura and other prisons today.

The batch includes 30 prisoners who were released after the interior minister accepted their petition, which was based on health, psychological, and social considerations. This is the first time such a humanitarian decision has been made in the prisons. [passage omitted]

Police Exchange Fire With Gunmen in al-Minya

NC0510190295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1828 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—An Interior Ministry security source announced tonight that two people were killed in a clash between a security unit and several individuals who were standing near a kiosk in a hilly area near Graduates Village in Samalut District, al-Minya Governorate.

The source explained that a passing security patrol thought a group of people carrying firearms looked suspicious. One was on a motorcycle that had no license plates. They opened fire on the security patrol and its members returned the fire.

Two of the armed group were killed and the others escaped. The security men found two pistols at the

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scene, live ammunition, and forged ID cards. The pistols' serial numbers had been erased. The security patrol confiscated the motorcycle.

Senior officers from al-Minya's Security Directorate and local detectives arrived at the scene. Forensic experts came to take fingerprints and examine the seized weapons.

The police have mounted a search for the escaped culprits.

Morocco

Chinese Premier Li Peng Pays Visit

Donates $600,000

LD0510134195 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct. 5 (MAP) — China donated Morocco about 600,000 US dlrs under a memorandum of understanding signed here Wednesday [4 October] on the occasion of the visit Chinese Premier Li Peng is paying to Morocco since Tuesday. The memorandum was initialled by Moroccan finance and foreign investment minister, Mohamed Kabbaj, and Chinese deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, Sun Zhenyu, at the end of a meeting chaired by the two countries prime ministers Li Peng and Abdellatif Filali.

Morocco and China also signed the implementation program of their cultural accord covering the 1996-98 period. The program provides for the intensification of cooperation and exchange of data and expertise between the two countries in matters of culture, education, arts, and monuments' safeguard.

Signs 'Numerous' Cooperation Agreements

LD0510134795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, left Rabat this morning at the end of an official visit to Morocco at the invitation of Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. During this visit, Mr. Li was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and held talks with Abdellatif Filali. These talks were crowned with the signing of a number of cooperation agreements between Morocco and China. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Agricultural Pact Signed With South Africa

EA0610101195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 gmt 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan and South Africa have concluded an agreement to exchange research information about agriculture, animal resources, natural resources, and grazing land. The private sector in South Africa has expressed interest in investing in the Sudanese meat production sector to strengthen the market there.

Earlier, a Sudanese delegation headed by the agriculture and animal [as heard: cabinet list shows "natural"] resources minister had visited South Africa and held talks with public and private sector officials on ways of promoting relations between the two countries and on following up the implementation of the memorandum of understanding and the accompanying protocols signed last year. The two sides also discussed cooperation and coordination in the context of the joint research program. Discussions with the private sector centered on ways of strengthening contacts and investment in Sudan.

Fighting Between Government, Opposition Reported

NC0510163095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has reported that fierce fighting has been raging for several days between Sudanese Government troops and forces opposed to the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in Kurmuk in the Blue Nile Province of east Sudan.

There have been heavy casualties on both sides. The exact number of dead is unknown because of a news blackout imposed by the Sudanese Government. Apparently the government forces are encountering difficulties in the fighting.

According to some informed sources, a general mobilization has been ordered in the Kurmuk area. Led by the province's governor and local commissioners, citizens have been mobilized into 42 popular defense camps where they are receiving training.

Army Reports 'Fierce Fighting' Among Rebel Groups

EA0510200795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source in the General Headquarters of the People's Armed Forces has reported

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that fierce fighting is currently raging between different groups within John Garang's rebel forces, in the camps of Khawr, (Geith), and (Labor) on the road to Kenya. The source added that the fighting broke out because of heightened differences between the leaders of the rebel movement, which led to intense tribal divisions, and subsequent battles between the Dinka and Nuer tribesmen within the movement. The source said that several groups among the rebels managed to escape to Bahr al Ghazal and joined the rebel Kerubino Kwanyin Bol, while other groups escaped to Upper Nile.

The source said that the rebel Garang removed soldiers of the Dinka tribe, who came from Bor and who had disobeyed his orders, from battle hotspots due to the casualties they had suffered. Garang had then replaced the Bor soldiers with Dinka soldiers from Bahr al Ghazal which resulted in armed conflicts between the members of the same tribe in the rebel movement. Meanwhile, the source added, similar divisions have afflicted Riak Machar's faction of the rebel movement, especially in the Upper Nile area.

The source added that the grassroots of the rebel movement have rejected any agreements imposed by the supreme command with the aim of uniting the different opposing rebel groups, especially after the failure of the rebel Garang to gain the support of the Nuers through his attempts to use the rebel William Nyuon, who had earlier defected from his group.

Tunisia

French President Arrives in Tunis, Meets Ben Ali

Ben Ali Greets Chirac on Arrival

LD0510112995 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1104 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the republic Jacques Chirac arrived in Tunis on Thursday on a two-day official visit. He was greated by Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

The last official visit to Tunisia by a French president dates back to that made by Francois Mitterrand in 1989.

Ben Ali, Chirac Discuss Cooperation

LD0610092795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first day of President Chirac's visit to Tunisia at the invitation of President Ben Ali was marked by a warm popular welcome showed when the two presidents toured the streets of Tunis [on 5 October]. The warm welcome reflected the depth and strength of ties between the two countries.

On the other hand, talks were held yesterday evening between the two presidents, which focused on relations between the two countries and issues of common interest at bilateral, regional, and international levels.

The official spokesman of the presidency said that the two presidents had reviewed the excellent relations between the two countries, and the promising scopes for further strengthening the fruitful cooperation between them, in accordance with the common wish of the two heads of state. The spokesman added that Ben Ali had broached with his French counterpart the possibilities of invigorating economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the domain of promoting Tunisian industries in the light of the requirements of the agreement of partnership between Tunisia and the European Union in which France had played a positive part, given the excellent traditional ties between the two friendly countries and peoples. In this context, they also discussed the possibility of bilateral cooperation becoming a model, and of finding new ways of securing a more efficient Tunisian-French cooperation in harmony with the requirements of economic and social development. In this respect, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, sciences, youth and sports, which covers a wide range of projects concerning science and the young, as well as the exchange of know-how and experiences.

Regarding the issues of common interest at regional and international levels, the official spokesman of the presidency pointed out that the two presidents discussed the situation in the region and the scope for cooperation among Mediterranean countries before the convening of the Barcelona conference, with a view to further strengthening this cooperation between Mediterranean countries, and making the region an oasis of peace, stability, and prosperity for its peoples.

President Chirac praised President Ben Ali's role at Mediterranean level given that Tunisia was the first country that concluded a partnership agreement with the European Union, and given Tunisia's positive contribution by hosting the preparatory meeting of the Barcelona conference in Tabarka. In this respect, President Ben Ali stressed the importance attached by Tunisia to joint cooperation in permanent development projects through the investing of debt servicing costs for the realization of these projects of common benefit.

On the other hand, President Ben Ali and President Chirac dealt with the peace process in the Middle East following the signing of the agreement on the extending of the Palestinian self-rule. They reiterated their support for this fresh step on the road to resolving pending

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problems in the region. President Ben Ali reiterated Tunisia's eagerness that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people be guaranteed, and underlined the need to back the efforts being exerted to ensure that the peace process moves ahead with a view to arriving at a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution in the Middle East.

Moreover, and in the light of the experience of President Ben Ali's chairmanship of the OAU, the two presidents discussed the situation in the African continent, particularly conflicts there. In this respect, President Ben Ali stressed the need to continue international efforts, with a mechanism of settling conflicts in the continent, in order to arrive at resolving these problems, thus enabling Africa to devote itself to issues related to the development of its countries and ensuring the security and stability of its peoples.

The two heads of state also examined the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. In this respect, the official spokesman of the presidency said that President Ben Ali had underlined Tunisia's keeness to see an end to the sufferings of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and expressed Tunisia's appreciation for the great efforts made by France to bring this human tragedy to an end. [passage omitted]

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Al-Sahhaf on Regional Ties, Domestic Issues

MM0510142095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] There is much talk about change, about something happening in Iraq.

[Al-Sahhaf] That is part of the sick campaign launched by some failed parties. Iraq has been the target of an unjust war, but it has remained firm and stable. Its internal situation is strong. Those failures insist on repeating unfounded empty words. We do not wish tragic changes to befall them.

[Dirgham] Iraq is isolated regionally and internationally. Do you feel comfortable in the present situation?

[Al-Sahhaf] First of all, we are not regionally isolated. We are suffering from a total economic blockade, but we have political and cultural relations with most states of the region, and we have economic relations within the allowed limits under the Security Council resolutions. Therefore, to speak of isolation the way you do is part of that sick campaign.

[Dirgham] Iraq is not at peace with its neighbors nor with a section of its population. It is not at peace internationally, with the Security Council or the international community....

[Al-Sahhaf] It is not true that Iraq is not in harmony with its people. An Iraqi hearing that would find it laughable and would regret the fact that many misled people repeat it. The truth is this: Iraq — people, political regime, and leadership — is very much in harmony with itself. We are not in harmony with a small number of states in the region and very much in disharmony with the Kuwaiti regime, but when talking about disharmony between Iraq and Oman, the degree of that disharmony drops considerably and the same applies to Qatar, Bahrain, Syria, and Egypt. It is futile in any political dialogue to utter words haphazardly without being specific. Even in the case of those with whom we disagree considerably, we take the initiative and we maintain that initiative to make them understand that a way could be opened toward minimizing the lack of harmony, because that is the appropriate thing to do.

Iraq has been subjected to sanctions and there is persistence to prolong the sanctions for political reasons, but that does not mean that we have no contacts, ties, and steady work with states — some in the region and some outside it — with which we have made progress in the interest of cooperation. The scopes for cooperation are even wider than before the Gulf crisis.

[Dirgham] Let us talk about Jordan in the light of the repercussions of the August events. What, in your view, is on King Husayn's mind?

[Al-Sahhaf] We have no views on that matter. Ask the Jordanian side. We give a realistic picture. Relations between Iraq and Jordan are continuing and are as good as they were before, and that is what matters. We do not interfere in what others say. Everyone is free to say what he likes, and we are free to say what we like.

[Dirgham] Let us concentrate on what King Husayn said in his speech, the fact that he received Husayn Kamil, and the positions he has taken and other statements he has made. Let us talk about the concept of the so-called map of the new Iraq. That is no secret. It has been mentioned and is being talked about and discussed. Do you understand the positions King Husayn has taken on Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] I do not know what illusions others have, but we are sure that there is a U.S.-Zionist plan to harm Iraq. We will crush that plan.

[Dirgham] How could you expect us to understand your relations with your neighbors if you refuse to comment on your relations with Jordan?

[Al-Sahhaf] Our relations with Jordan are good. I do not comment on illusions. There are those who want to harm Iraq, and our information is that the plan is a U.S.-Zionist plan. That will be completely foiled. It is now in a state of collapse.

[Dirgham] How would you foil it?

[Al-Sahhaf] Through our harmony, our strength, and our continuous work. Iraq is a deep-rooted country and this is not the first and will not be the last plot against us. Throughout its history Iraq has proved that it can foil all these attempts. These are illusions. Iraq continues to build itself.

[Dirgham] There is some talk about blocs in the region. Do you see a place for you within them or between them?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are against the policy of blocs. Iraq calls for real Arab solidarity and for Arab cooperation on the basis of mutual interests.

[Dirgham] Everyone is talking about the Iraq of tomorrow, of the future, an Iraq different from the Iraq of yesterday.

[Al-Sahhaf] These are delusions of frustrated people.

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[Dirgham] How would Iraq resist?

[Al-Sahhaf] These are delusions and we do not waste our time on delusions.

[Dirgham] You are in a state of siege and economic deterioration. Children do not go to school because of high costs. The sanctions have been costly to your people. The Security Council is very displeased after you have admitted what you previously denied. You have said that Husayn Kamil was the one who concealed the information but the Security Council does not take that seriously. How can you continue in such a situation?

[Al-Sahhaf] We overcome that situation with steady steps. What I wish you would understand, putting aside emotions of support or opposition, is that the will of people is stronger than all the sinister attempts to undermine Iraq through the blockade.

As far as education is concerned, the children come under the comprehensive system that existed before, but instead of having new books every year we now rotate the books from year to year. We have enough paper. Because of the economic effect of the blockade on people's living conditions, the children of some families have begun to avoid school. That is natural. We are doing everything we can to minimize the truancy phenomenon, which is not very widespread. As regards all other factors, we are active and productive people. We have increased the area of our agricultural land and our agricultural production has increased. We are self-sufficient in all kinds of fruits and vegetables and are moving toward self- sufficiency in basic foodstuff, and we are developing the medicines industry. I therefore ask you to understand that this part of the Arab homeland is an efficient part which is resisting the unfair blockade with its own intrinsic efforts and is working with the Security Council and the special commission (for the elimination of prohibited Iraqi weapons headed by Ekeus) in order to complete the remaining peripheral and secondary matters and thus complete fulfillment of the requirements for ending the blockade.

[Dirgham] What if Jordan closed its borders with Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] I do not address hypothetical questions.

[Dirgham] You have talked about self-sufficiency and the question follows on from that matter.

[Al-Sahhaf] That has nothing to do with it. Relations between Iraq and Jordan were established when there was no blockade. The relations of close fraternal and fruitful cooperation between the two sides were established when both Jordan and Iraq were in their best conditions. That was not born out of need. They will continue to be the same.

[Dirgham] If there was an intention to besiege and tighten the noose on Iraq by closing the Jordanian-Iraqi border, would Iraq be able to maintain self-sufficiency?

[Al-Sahhaf] Iraq has survived 7,000 years and will survive another 70,000 years.

[Dirgham] When I interviewed you some months ago we discussed the question of normalization between Iraq and Iran. Meetings have been held since then and you have exchanged visits, with relations deteriorating at times. What point have the tangible normalization efforts reached?

[Al-Sahhaf] Contacts are continuing. There has been some progress recently, and that was announced. Three protocols were signed, one pertaining to the state of the POW's, the second to disclosures about and the handing over of the bodies of war victims, and the third to the question of solving the problem of the Iranian refugees in Iraq and the Iraqi refugees in Iran. It was also agreed to discuss other files. One such file is almost complete. It deals with the movement of people between Iraq and Iran to visit religious sites in the two countries. Work is continuing for the purpose of urgently holding a political dialogue at the level of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

[Dirgham] You have met here in New York.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, we have met and discussed all these issues and we agreed to set dates for meetings.

[Dirgham] So the normalization efforts are continuing.

[Al-Sahhaf] They are continuing.

[Dirgham] What about the signs of differences that appear from time to time?

[Al-Sahhaf] That is life.

[Dirgham] Do you want to form an Iraqi-Iranian bloc to face the "dual containment" policy targeting Iraq and Iran?

[Al-Sahhaf] The so-called "dual containment" policy is a failed project. Those who drew up that policy were not realistic. They just copied one of the cold war containment formulas between two superpowers at the time to apply it to two important third world oil countries which cannot be contained, firstly because of their diverse relations and, secondly, because of the very shaky state of stability in the Arab Gulf region. That is why many political observers in and outside the region and some Americans have doubted the feasibility and seriousness of that policy.

We consider the dual containment policy to be inapplicable and to be just a cover for maintaining the illegitimate and provocative U.S. military presence in the

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region. That does not mean that Iraq and Iran — at least I speak for Iraq — draw up their policies as a reaction to that false U.S. policy. We make our policies on the basis of our interests and our national and pan-Arab vision, and that has nothing to do with any nonsense from any side.

As far as Iran and Iraq's bilateral relations with it are concerned, we do not make any contacts with it as a reaction to the U.S. policy. We see our contacts, relations, and current dialogue with Iran as a part of our national interest in normalizing relations with a neighboring country against which we fought a long war which had its reasons. Now we feel and believe that the Iranian side views the matter in the same way. It is in the interest of both countries to solve problems outstanding between them.

[Dirgham] What next after your positive comment on Syria's position on the August events. Was that the end of the matter or is there another dimension, perhaps a more direct one or through Iran?

[Al-Sahhaf] After President Hafiz al-Asad's statements in Cairo about Husayn Kamil's air bubbles and after the Syrian position expressed by President al-Asad I openly praised the Syrian position. Nothing else occurred between us after that, no contacts or anything else. Relations remain the same, in other words there are no diplomatic contacts and no other contacts except on two issues, one being coordination on the Euphrates water and the other coordination between the interior ministries of the two countries in relation to the borders. We do not contact Syria or anyone else through a third party. Iran has nothing to do with our relations with Syria if there are to be any such relations, although there is nothing now.

[Dirgham] And with Egypt?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are continuing our contacts. I always meet with my colleague 'Amr Musa and we exchange views on the affairs of the Arab homeland and the region and on the prospects of raising the level of relations and contacts between the two countries. The atmosphere is calm and moving towards improvement and positivity, which is natural. I expect this series of political contacts to result in a schedule for the restoration of relations between Iraq and Egypt.

[Dirgham] When?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is no particular date.

[Dirgham] Turkey is directly concerned with Iraq. It is a party to the "Provide Comfort" operation along with the United States, Britain, and France in northern Iraq. It is now unhappy about the attitude of the Kurdish leaders and the security situation in the north. You have met with the Turkish foreign minister. What did you agree on?

[Al-Sahhaf] First of all, our Turkish neighbors acknowledge that an end to the abnormal situation in northern Iraq would be in their interest. They emphasize that they are not interested in interfering in Iraqi affairs. Actually, what the Turkish policy is suffering from is U.S. pressure.

The Americans have deployed their air forces at a Turkish military base and from there they carry out sorties over northern Iraq. They have some contacts with some leaders of the Kurdish parties and, through these contacts, they prevent these Kurdish leaders from reaching agreement with the national government. The Iraqi Kurdish parties are willing to sign the draft agreement we reached with them in August 1991, but they frankly say that Washington prevents them from doing that, and they fear American intrigues and they fear for themselves and fear assassination. Going back to the question of Turkey, where is the problem in Turkish policy? The problem is the negative U.S. role. They do not object to that role against Iraq. As a result of that role Kurdish-Turkish terrorist operations began to flourish in northern Iraq leading to the perpetuation of the Kurdish-Turkish problem resulting in a vicious circle: The Kurds are subject to the U.S. policy, as a result of which snakes are hatched and the snakes bite the Turks. We offer dialogue and coordination with our Turkish neighbors because we know the real problem they are facing, which is that in Turkey there are 16 million Kurds in bad living conditions and with no rights. That Kurdish problem is a Turkish internal affair. Our neighbors are suffering because of that, and the Americans do not understand the seriousness of that problem. Their hate is so focused on Iraq even if it means harm to their allies. We seek understanding with our Turkish neighbors on ways of solving that problem because that is in the common interest of both Iraq and Turkey.

[Dirgham] A source acquainted with the affairs of the region says that in the past when the Armenians spoke about Armenia people laughed but talking about the establishment of a Kurdistan state is not funny and that a Kurdistan state must emerge, beginning with northern Iraq, and the Kurds will have a state just as the Armenians now have a state.

[Al-Sahhaf] The Iraqi Kurds stress that this Western game is an illusion. And if the West wants to plot on this matter the first country to be partitioned would be Turkey not Iraq for realistic reasons and not as a matter of wishful thinking. There is no Iraqi national

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administration now in that region, which consists of empty mountains with no element of a state. A lie may be created, but the Kurds would be the first to fight it. The danger is separation of a part of Turkey, where all the elements necessary for the formation of a state are available. The Americans understand that — they are not that stupid — and so do their Western allies. Everyone wants to harm Iraq but knows that the danger is that it would backfire. They are now confused about what they have schemed against Iraq and what they have gotten themselves into.

[Dirgham] You must have heard the talk about a federation in Iraq consisting of the south, north, and central region.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, I have heard it. A federation is not suitable for Iraq. It is a part of that sinister illusion they talk about. Iraq is an integrated unit and the population is mixed. The talk of south and north is a sign of stupidity and lack of understanding. The aim is, of course, political. Iraq is an integrated solid unit despite all the might of others. They came up with the ban on (Iraqi) flights in the south, and that has become a burden to them. They did the same in the north and sponsored the "Provide Comfort" operation, which has now become "provide pain" and has become a burden and a threat to Turkey. Federation is suitable for other countries whose people believe it to be the right formula for them, such as Russia. Because of the social mix in Iraq, federation elements or separation elements do not exist.

[Dirgham] In the north of Iraq are the Kurds and in the south the Shiites.

[Al-Sahhaf] That is not true. That is sinister wishful thinking. I am a Shiite but I am not in the south. By the way, the Iraqis do not think that way. An Iraqi person does not think about who is Muslim and who is Christian or about one sect or another.

[Dirgham] But Iraq is ruled by a Sunni group.

[Al-Sahhaf] That is not true. Those with ill intentions believe that fragmentation of societies and states can be achieved by raising such issues.... You in Lebanon have foiled that design, which also includes partition of Egypt and Syria. Now, because the campaign is focused on Iraq, such talk emerges but the Iraqis ridicule that.

[Dirgham] Some states in the region suffer from religious extremism. Some say that there is no religious extremism in Iraq while others maintain that such a religious base is being built for specific reasons. What is the truth?

[Al-Sahhaf] So-called extremism or politicizing religion or using religious logic for political and organizational purposes is unacceptable in Iraqi culture. No religious party of any value has emerged in Iraq. Why? The reason is the psychological and cultural fabric of the society. By virtue of its psychological and social structure, Iraq does not accept the use of extremism in faith. The Iraqi individual leans more toward civilian life and a modern cultural mentality, which allows a degree of free thinking. When an Iraqi calls for an organization based on religion, he finds that it does not agree with his thinking. That is the main point. Secondly, political life in Iraq is not empty. It is full in the sense that there are political and partisan movements with which people sympathize and which they find practical. The most prominent is the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and before that the Communist Party and before that the Iraqi Democratic Party and the Arab Nationalist Movement. So, what prevails and is supported by the people is closer to civilian modern thinking. So there is an atmosphere where political mobilization does not favor religious extremism or using religion as a cover.

Add to that the factor of the effective political forces such as the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. So there is no religious extremism in Iraq.

[Dirgham] Some have advised Iraqi to have pluralism instead of the one-party system. What prevents pluralism in Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] We have advised others to apply pluralism and some of them accepted Iraq's advice and followed that line. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as its constitution states, believes in political pluralism, parliamentary life, and the need for the president of the republic to be elected directly by the people and not by parliament. A new draft constitution has been drawn up for Iraq on the basis of pluralism, a free press, expansion of the private sector, election of the president of the republic directly by the people, and separation of powers. The first to raise that matter was President Saddam Husayn himself in 1979 and then in 1989. There will be pluralism in Iraq as soon as the blockade ends. That is no advice from anyone. It is a part of Iraq's national program.

[Dirgham] Since the idea of pluralism has existed for some time and has not been carried out....

[Al-Sahhaf] That is because of Iraq's circumstances.

[Dirgham] What is to prevent measures being taken for pluralism now? Why wait till after the blockade is lifted.

[Al-Sahhaf] I have said that building democratic life in Iraq is an Iraqi national program approved from the beginning and will proceed in accordance with the Iraqi

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national program and not in accordance with the wishes of any foreign party.

[Dirgham] Why wait until after the blockade?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is no waiting, no delay, and no haste. There is a national program which will be implemented. We will have a pluralistic system, in the sense of partisan pluralism, diversity of views, parliament, elections, and everything.

[Dirgham] But after the blockade?

[Al-Sahhaf] According to the Iraqi national program which is not a long way away. We are dealing with this matter according to our own national timing.

[Dirgham] The Security Council is clearly disappointed with Iraq, and most of its members believe that Iraq concealed information and even deceived friends such as Russia and France. That comes in the wake of the recent admissions about germ [weapons] capabilities previously completely denied. The atmosphere is poisoned and the question of credibility is again figuring significantly in the Council's deliberations. What do you intend to do now?

[Al-Sahhaf] The information we gave them recently does not at all contradict the truth about the Iraqi germ program. These are details, nothing qualitatively new. Furthermore, there are fabrications by the United States as part of its wanton political aim of causing tension. We have explained that to the Security Council members and the next few days will remove that charge against Iraq.

[Dirgham] Will you give Rolf Ekeus anything new? Will you give him everything? Will you give him everything? [repetition as published]

[Al-Sahhaf] We have nothing new. We will continue to work with him and to cooperate with him fully so that he can go all the way within the (special) commission to verify all the information. We will answer all his questions and meet all his demands.

[Dirgham] Even France, which had promised to work for an end to the full oil embargo on Iraq in implementation of Article 22 of Resolution 678, says that you must now accept and implement Resolution 986 (allowing the sale of limited quantities of oil to meet urgent humanitarian needs), not as an alternative to Article 22 but because the current atmosphere does not permit total lifting of the oil embargo. Will you accept resolution 986?

[Al-Sahhaf] No, for the same two main reasons it was originally rejected. The first is that the resolution is inhumane. It was a political resolution which dealt with northern Iraq as if it was a separate case from Iraq's. We advised those who tabled the resolution at the time not to do that and we said that it was possible to find a formula that would ensure respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and give the United Nations the transparency it required, but they did not agree. The second reason is their interference in bilateral relations when they made it a condition that most of that oil should be exported via the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. That is a bilateral matter, and if they had left it to Iraq and Turkey and the technical specifications of that pipeline they would have demonstrated self-respect and respect for the bilateral relations between an independent and sovereign state and its neighbor.

[Dirgham] Will you seek to renegotiate the terms of Resolution 986 with the possibility of accepting it?

[Al-Sahhaf] No.

[Dirgham] So, the resolution is categorically rejected?

[Al-Sahhaf] It is categorically rejected in its present form. The Security Council has said nothing outside the context of its rejected resolution. There has been nothing new.

[Dirgham] It seems, therefore, that the situation is one of continuing sanctions with you rejecting Resolution 986 which provides an opportunity for selling limited quantities of oil to meet humanitarian needs?

[Al-Sahhaf] Resolution 986 has nothing to do with lifting the sanctions. It provides an opportunity for undermining Iraq's sovereignty and independence. We do not accept that.

[Dirgham] So what will you do? You undoubtedly realize that nothing will happen politically or practically, as far as lifting the oil embargo is concerned, for one year and perhaps two or more from now.

[Al-Sahhaf] Nobody knows but, we will continue to work with the special commission. When the terms are met we shall see if the Security Council will respect itself or not.

[Dirgham] You still reject Resolution 688 (which emphasizes that repression of the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south should stop).

[Al-Sahhaf] Of course. That resolution is a brand of shame in the history of the United Nations.

[Dirgham] Even though you are addressing the issue of the POW's and missing persons, Kuwait emphasizes that you are not about to resolve that issue. Will you offer anything new?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are no POW's in Iraq. We are trying to close the file of the missing persons according

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to the accepted international rules under the Geneva convention. The Kuwaiti claims are empty. They are obstructing and delaying the work of the tripartite committee. There is no specific date for concluding that matter. It would depend on the efforts and sincere cooperation of all parties. We are doing our best and cooperating with everyone. The Kuwaitis should stop exploiting that issue to serve their own purposes .... We are prepared to work day and night for ending that matter.

[Dirgham] Your political attitude toward neighboring states, like what you just said about Kuwait, denotes a hard line. You were in a different mood than when we spoke last.

[Al-Sahhaf] We are in the same mood, but the problem is that the missing persons file....

[Dirgham] I am not confining the question to the issue of missing persons. It is about the impressions that your answers leave. Your tone seems to be one of hostility, intransigence, and escalation.

[Al-Sahhaf] We are expressing our opinion of the attempts to obstruct, and we should do so, but our policy still moves in the same direction.

[Dirgham] The inclination in the past was to improve the atmosphere with the neighboring states.

[Al-Sahhaf] And we continue to do that, but others must respect themselves. If that happened they would find us fully respectful, but it is incomprehensible when you ask me to be open while the opposite party remains closed and working against me day and night. Any settlement must include all parties whose positions and statements should be such as to subscribe to the desire for a settlement. We should not be asked to be open and courteous while others use all means to maintain an atmosphere of tension and escalation, because then I would have to mete out the same treatment. Why do you ask me to describe a person who hinders humanitarian work and expect me not to say so? That party is obstructive. That is the view of the International Red Cross.

[Dirgham] The impression is that Iraq is taking a hard line when there is now need for new positions, new openness in fulfillment of the Security Council demands, and closure of all pending files.

[Al-Sahhaf] First we must separate matters. We are clearly dealing with the Security Council and the special commission. It is a complex situation and we are working. These crises which occur from time to time are not the essence.

[Dirgham] But what happened last August was not a passing crisis. You revealed what you had previously denied. What has happened is important, I mean the Security council's reaction to that.

[Al-Sahhaf] Before you jump to conclusions, the Security Council is not a saint. The Council reflects policies and it is under U.S. hegemony. The Americans do not want to solve the problem. That is how you should view matters if you want to be serious. We are dealing with a situation which carries many objectives, and our purpose is to insist on a legal implementation of what is required.

[Dirgham] Ekeus says that you had ordered the military commanders to use germ weapons.

[Al-Sahhaf] That was the biggest lie told by that insignificant person Husayn Kamil.

[Dirgham] That is what Ekeus said.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, citing Husayn Kamil not the factual information we supplied with documents. We told them (the Security Council members): Why do you not wait a few weeks before jumping to unfounded conclusions? Wait for Ekeus. You have placed your complete trust in him, so let him bring you the result. Why this hurry? The reason for the hurry is to escalate the campaign.

[Dirgham] Are you about to join the region's bandwagon? Everyone, or rather the majority, is now in the peace process, but you are not. Has the time come for you to support the peace process?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are not a party to it, that is true. Do you want to talk about the Palestinian question?

[Dirgham] I am talking about the peace process.

[Al-Sahhaf] Is it a peace process on Mars?

[Dirgham] The peace process is more than just the Palestinian track. There is the Syrian track, the Lebanese track, the Jordanian treaty, and the multilateral negotiations.

[Al-Sahhaf] We are not concerned with that?

[Dirgham] Are you against the peace process?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are not concerned with the matter. When they used to say that that was a pan-Arab issue they used to meet and make decisions in the context of Arab summit conferences. We are committed to the Arab summit resolutions. Anything bilateral is their business. They are independent sovereign states, and we are not concerned with that.

[Dirgham] The Italian foreign minister has stated that the thinking within the European Union [EU] favors

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maintaining the sanctions against Iraq so long as Saddam Husayn is in power or until his personality changes. Do you rule that out? Have you read that?

[Al-Sahhaf] That seems to be untrue to me because they all assured me that the EU is interested in restoring relations with Iraq and that they abide by the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolutions and are not prepared to depart from these resolutions.

[Dirgham] Who are they?

[Al-Sahhaf] All those I met with.

[Dirgham] You have met with the foreign minister of Germany.

[Al-Sahhaf] And of Italy and Spain. That is why I do not understand that talk. I was told the opposite.

[Dirgham] Did the Italian foreign minister tell you the opposite of what she said in public?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, she said that she wishes to restore relations with Iraq. They stressed that [they would do so] as soon as Iraq implements (the resolutions). I assured them that we are about to conclude that issue.

[Dirgham] What about Germany?

[Al-Sahhaf] The Germans were very clear in stressing that we must complete the required implementation of the Security Council resolutions and that Germany is interested in relations with Iraq.

[Dirgham] You must have read AL-HAYAH's interview with Barzan al-Tikriti (Iraq's ambassador in Geneva and President Saddam Husayn's brother).

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes.

[Dirgham] So you read what he said about 'Udayy, the president's son. We always hear about 'Udayy's domineering attitude in more than one field. Is Iraq taking any measures to dispel the impression that Iraq is "the ruling family" which controls the people?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is no ruling family in Iraq. There are ruling families in other countries. Iraq's is a republican constitutional regime with a political party which is the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. It has a system for choosing officials.... There is no family rule in Iraq. That is just a part of the false campaign to defame Iraq.

[Dirgham] Even Barzan al-Tikriti, who is Iraq's ambassador, spoke of one individual, the Iraqi president's son.

[Al-Sahhaf] Barzan is one of Iraq's best men. He is a struggler and has worked in the diplomatic corps, and before that he was Iraqi chief of intelligence. He talks in general terms as a citizen exercising his right of self-expression, but there is great mutual respect between him and 'Udayy. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn is the chairman of the Olympic Committee. He is a sportsman. That is normal.... You find that in many places. When a son or brother of an official is suited to his work there would be no objection within these limits. 'Udayy is the chairman of the Olympic Committee.

[Dirgham] Does the Olympic Committee now constitute 'Udayy's limits?

[Al-Sahhaf] The same thing was, these stories....

[Dirgham] I am relating what Barzan said.

[Al-Sahhaf] I read what Barzan said. He wanted to tell you that what you are saying is not true, and in the first place he is not fit to rule. [sentence as published] He wanted, in his own way, to say that there is no such issue. There is no such problem.

[Dirgham] You are aware of the SUNDAY TIMES report that Iraq was massing tanks and troops near the border with Kuwait and that about 100 tanks and armored vehicles were deployed inside the prohibited zone in southern Iraq....

[Al-Sahhaf] That is not true at all. By the way, the UN officer in charge of the observation force has stressed that the published reports on that were not true. There is nothing of the sort. That is irresponsible press talk, fabricating completely unfounded reports.

[Dirgham] Kuwait fears that these reports might be true.

[Al-Sahhaf] I am not concerned with Kuwait's fears. I am stating facts. That claim (about troop concentrations) is unfounded and there is nothing of the sort.

Report on Possible Acceptance of 986 Denied

JN0510124095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA) — A responsible source at the Ministry of Culture and Information said today that the information and conclusions reported by the weekly oil review MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, issued in Cyprus, to the effect that Iraq may agree to Resolution 986, are wrong. The information on which the report is based is groundless.

The source added: The inaccurate information and wrong conclusions published by the review in its latest edition are inspired by well-known circles which seek to drop the legal commitments that should be implemented by the Security Council; namely, the implementation of Paragraph 22 since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under Resolution 687.

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Report on Push for UN Humanitarian Measure Denied

NC0510143695 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 5 (AFP) — Iraq on Thursday [5 October] denied a report that officials here had pleaded for a UN measure allowing Baghdad to sell some of its oil to buy food and medicine.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported on Monday that some Iraqi officials had pleaded for accepting the measure because they did not expect UN sanctions to be lifted before the US presidential election in November 1996.

"The conclusions published in this (weekly) are false because they are founded on wrong information," the information ministry said in a statement to AFP.

"These reports are inspired by parties that don't want to stick to their commitment to apply paragraph 22 of (UN) resolution 687," it said.

Under resolution 687, the oil embargo can be lifted when UN experts certify that Iraq has dismantled its programs for weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id Kazim al-Sahhaf said in an interview published on Wednesday that Baghdad "categorically rejects" resolution 986 which allows limited oil exports to buy food and medicine.

"Resolution 986 has nothing to do with the lifting of sanctions" imposed on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, he said. "It seeks to undermine Iraq's sovereignty."

The measure regards northern Iraq, under the control of Iraqi Kurds since after the 1991 Gulf War to free Kuwait, as a "separate area and interferes in our relations" with Turkey, the minister said.

Under the resolution adopted in April, Iraq can sell up to one billion dollars' worth of oil each quarter under tight restrictions.

Health Minister Outlines Blockade's Effects

MM0610091995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ukashah Abu-al-Dahab: "Iraqi Health Minister Says Casualties Increasing With Spread of Disease and Lack of Medical Services"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The Iraqi Health Minister Umid Mubarak has stressed that the international economic blockade imposed on his country for over five years is seriously threatening the health of Iraqi citizens and that 625,000 Iraqis, mostly children and women, have died, as confirmed by neutral and specialist international organizations. Citing a recent report by the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization], which includes U.S. experts, he said that this report proves the scale of the Iraqi people's suffering.

The Iraqi health minister said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the death toll in his country has risen and that illnesses have increased, pointing out that this was due not only to the shortage of medicines but also to the lack of emergency medical equipment and water purification and treatment plants, in addition to the shortage of suitable insecticides required at specific times.

He said that the citizens' health is worsening day after day because of the lack of basic facilities to combat disease, pointing out that this has led to an increase in the number of deaths in all age groups, because of the blockade. He said that 37,461 children under the age of five have died during the current year, while the number of deaths in the over-five's group is 55,911.

He added that the monthly average for deaths in the under-five's group was in the region of 500 children a month before the blockade, whereas as of September, according to recent statistics by nongovernmental international organizations, it had reached 6,500 children a month. The average number of deaths among the over- five's was 1,600 prior to the blockade and has now reached 5,600.

The Iraqi health minister said that there were 1,230 cholera cases last year, which was somewhat reduced thanks to the cooperation of some

Commentary on Arab Views on Iraq, Scenarios

95LH0279A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 17

[Article by Sami al-Hajj: "Three Scenarios Projected for Replacement of Baghdad's Current Regime; Arabs Agree on Toppling Iraqi President But Disagree on Alternative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is evident that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil 'Abd-al-Majid has lost all his glitter and all his chances to be the acceptable and trusted alternative to lead the new Iraqi regime that succeeds the current regime, led by President Saddam Husayn, when this regime is toppled. The search is now underway for the successful overthrow of this regime.

The people concerned don't state this fact publicly. However, this fact can be inferred and concluded when one reads carefully the group of opinions and

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analyses that have dealt with Husayn Kamil from both personal and political perspectives. All these opinions and analyses agree on excluding his name from the list of likely alternatives to the Iraqi president for numerous reasons, foremost of which is that he is a product of the same regime and that he has not offered enough evidence to persuade those concerned with change in Iraq that he can be the horse that wins the race.

Among the forces working to replace the regime in Iraq, the Americans have been the first to drop the card of the Iraqi president's son in law, who has sought the Jordanian monarch's sanctuary and protection, from their calculations for the post-Saddam phase in Baghdad. The Americans have been followed by Arab and non-Arab members of the camp seeking to overthrow the current government and to change the situation existing in Baghdad. This does not abolish the fact that both Washington and London have expressed their support for the position contained in King Husayn's address, which included some praise for the lieutenant general who has occupied the position of the "number two man" in the current Iraqi Government.

U.S. and British support has been channeled toward backing the Jordanian monarch's position and his plan for change and not toward backing the "civilian" Iraqi lieutenant general who has not convinced Egypt, Syria, or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—the countries which Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has visited in an effort to coordinate the positions on the situation in Iraq in its entirety—and not on Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil himself. It also seems that the sultanate of Oman has not been convinced by Kamil either, not before the talks between King Husayn and Sultan Qabus and not after those talks during which the Hashemite king sought to familiarize himself with the Omani sultan's advice and opinion on Jordan's position and all the developments emanating from Husayn Kamil's and his comrades' defection to Amman, including the open dispute between Cairo and Amman.

However, the halted talk about Kamil as a possible alternative to Saddam does not mean that the task of searching for this alternative has also halted. nor does it mean that the political warfare to topple the Iraqi regime—the Jordanian position being tantamount to a declaration of this warfare—has been discarded or toned down. All the U.S. muscle-show activities in Kuwait and Jordan and even Arab contacts, consultations, and meetings, are taking place in the name of this task and as a form of the warfare which, everybody realizes, will not be easy, especially in light of the success the Iraqi regime has demonstrated in containing the painful blow it received with the defection of the president's two sons in law. This regime has reorganized its ranks which were shaken and confused in the initial days following this defection.

As we have already said in a previous article, published by AL-HAWADITH last week, the task of agreeing on the alternative to the Iraqi president and his regime, especially agreement on the Arab side, could be more difficult than the task of toppling this president and overthrowing his regime.

We base our opinion on the fact which the United States knows and which it, along with its Arab and western allies, acknowledges. This fact is the absence of a ready alternative, either because such an alternative is actually non-existent or because he is available but there is no agreement on him by the Arab countries directly concerned with the need for change in the existing condition in Iraq, namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. Each of them has legitimate, justifiable, and understandable interests in current and future Iraqi conditions because they are influenced directly by these conditions, either positively or negatively.

Another fact is the absence of a scenario founded on real information and on realistic ideas about the degree of readiness inside Iraq for the concept of change and of toppling the regime, as well as about the degree of public acceptance of any backing from abroad to accomplish this objective. All the scenarios under discussion are founded on "supposed facts," beginning with the scenario of change through a military coup by the Iraqi Army and ending with the scenario of change through a corrective movement by way of those whom some call the "old guard" among leaders of the Arab Ba'th Party. This party's cadres and institutions form the main base of Saddam's regime, regardless of whatever is said to the contrary in this regard.

Even the scenario inspired by the idea presented by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who expressed Egypt's willingness to accept President Saddam Husayn as a political refugee in his country, is a scenario based on a hypothetical fact, namely that the man holding the keys of power in Baghdad is prepared to accept the idea of voluntarily ceding this power and handing the keys to others very willingly and gladly just because Egypt is prepared to host him and ensure his safety as a political refugee. This scenario is an impossibility, even though Saddam Husayn tried political asylum in Egypt in the past and remained in Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's sanctuary for three years.

Here are the current developments supporting our opinion and proving its soundness. Arab disagreement over the scenario for change in Iraq, over the nature of the alternative regime, and over all aspects of the form of this

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regime has surfaced faster than expected. The Jordanian-Egyptian disagreement—which surfaced openly in the wake of the position contained in the address which King Husayn delivered and in which he attacked the Iraqi regime and called for its replacement so the long night of the Iraqi people will end—is part of a broader and hidden Arab disagreement on the Iraq issue. We can sense this disagreement in the caution Syria displays toward the Iraq issue, refraining from expressing its official opinion or disclosing its position on all the current developments connected with Iraq and its regime. This disagreement can also be inferred from the evident reservation which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia displays toward these developments. Both countries agree with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that it is necessary to change the conditions in Iraq, but they disagree with Jordan on the condition that will rise on its debris. In this regard, Syria and Saudi Arabia are like Egypt, whose president was the first to disclose this disagreement and to bring it out to the open when he talked of "political motives" that pushed the Jordanian monarch to confront the Iraqi regime and its president to the extent of declaring war to overthrow them.

Even though President Mubarak has not defined the nature of these motives, people well-informed with the region's history and with the hidden current struggle for power in its capitals can figure out the motives behind the Egyptian stance that opposes the Jordanian position. These motives are embodied in the historical apprehensions and sensitivities that can be evoked in Cairo, Damascus, and other Arab capitals concerned by any possibility of the formation of a political axis whose two parties are Baghdad and Amman. These two capitals tried to form a union when Iraq was a kingdom ruled by King Faysal II, the son of Ghazi I. However, 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's and 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif's coup did not give them the chance to establish the foundations of their union.

It seems that the evident enthusiasm and the emotional phrases with which King Husayn molded his address to Iraq have awakened in the Egyptian president and in other Arab leaders concerned some of the old apprehensions and sensitivities. Thus, the Egyptian president has objected to the Jordanian "political motives" without defining them. He has offered Iraqi President Saddam Husayn political asylum in Egypt to block the path in the face of what can be called the "Hashemite scenario" for change in Iraq. Nobody is talking of this scenario openly, even though like the other scenarios, it is projected on the basis of the "supposed facts" about which we have talked in this article.

Whatever the degree of truth about the presence or absence of this scenario, it is certain that the Egyptian-Jordanian disagreement on the Iraq issue is not at all because King Husayn wishes to topple Saddam Husayn and his regime and President Husni Mubarak does not. This also applies to the other Arab leaders neighboring Iraq, in whom King Husayn's address has evoked the same apprehensions it evoked in President Mubarak, even though they agree on the need for change in Iraq. Meanwhile, the regime ruling Iraq is taking advantage of this lost time to restore cohesion to its weakened domestic link and to re-polish its shaken image abroad.

'Izzat Ibrahim Meets Referendum Committee Officials

JN0510203495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Higher Committee charged with supervising the general popular referendum on the post of president, emphasized that the national popular mobilization for the referendum and the vote-casting process on this eventful day, which is marked by a profound awareness and adherence to the nation's principles and values, reflects the cultured and enlightened mind-set of the Iraqis, whose early ancestors built a bright civilization and forged an honorable history that is part of the immortal annals of history and glory. The referendum to be held by Iraqis at this point in time on the post of president reflects a profound understanding of the Iraqi individual. Besides, it is an act of jihad on the political, constitutional, economic, social, and educational levels, Ibrahim added.

During a meeting today with the committees charged with supervising the general popular referendum in the Salah al-Din Governorate, 'Izzat Ibrahim noted that the people, leadership, and ruler in Iraq, which is the paragon of civilizations and doctrine, are at one. They reflect a single spirit. They are of a unique fabric forged by the struggles of this great leader, the son of the people, who has upheld the nation's aspirations over 27 years of matchless leadership, enlightened wisdom, courageous words, and great stands. He has always upheld the honor, values, and traditions of the forefathers and grandfathers, and preserved the nation's history, Ibrahim maintained.

Ibrahim indicated that the Iraqis who will cast a yes vote for Saddam Husayn will be casting a yes vote for their nation, for its doctrine, and for their principles, values, and code of ethics. They will be casting a yes vote for their history, glory, and honor, and also for their bright and splendid future.

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Ibrahim added: The Iraqis, who protected Iraq and its chaste land from the enemies' filth in the prolonged showdown of the glorious al-Qadisiyah battle and the harshest showdown of the immortal Mother of Battles, rallied behind the fluttering banner of Saddam Husayn, and sacrificed human lives in these battles are expected to cast a yes vote for glory, a yes vote for dignity, a yes vote for Saddam Husayn.

Ibrahim gave his instructions to the committees charged with supervising the referendum. He instructed them to make complete preparations for this cultured democratic event, and to be hospitable to guests, as befits the Iraqis' traditions of generosity and hospitality.

'Izzat Ibrahim had earlier heard a detailed explanation presented by Salah al-Din Governor Ghazi Ahmad Khattab on the arrangements made for the referendum in this governorate, in which Saddam Husayn was born and raised.

The meeting was attended by comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Salah al-Din and al-Ta'mim Governorates' Ba'thist organizations.

In a separate development, 'Izzat Ibrahim presided over a meeting that brought together the comrade secretaries of the Salah al-Din and al-Mu'tasim Branch Commands, the comrade members of the two branch commands, and several members of their sections.

The conferees discussed the means to ensure the citizens' comfort and freedom during the vote-casting process.

Assembly Deputy Speaker Cited on Referendum

JN0510184295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi people are currently going through an experiment which is unprecedented in both the western and Arab worlds — namely, the referendum on the nomination of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, as president of the republic. If anything, the nomination indicates the close link, mutual confidence, and strong cohesion between the leader and the people.

To understand the significance of this democratic exercise in form and purport, we met with Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, who said: The major step which the Revolution Command Council took on 7 September 1995 to introduce significant and basic amendments to the constitution resulted in the following: First, the constitution article which considers the chairman of the Revolution Command Council president of the republic was amended to make it stipulate that the Revolution Command Council shall nominate its chairman for the post of president of the republic and that this nomination shall be submitted to the National Assembly so as to discuss it and give its opinion on it. Second, the amendment transfers constitutionally some of the powers of the Revolution Command Council to the National Assembly, as it consists of the representatives of the people, which was what had actually taken place in the assembly's session of 10 September 1995.

On that day, an extraordinary session was held to discuss the nomination of the chairman of the Revolution Command Council for the post of president of the republic. At the beginning of the session, 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, submitted the subject and explained the nature of this democratic exercise, which takes place for the first time in the 15-year life of the National Assembly. During this session, which continued for more than two and a half hours, the assembly discussed the history of the leader President Saddam Husayn and his efforts for the sake of Iraq, the Iraqis, and the Arab nation since the outbreak of the 17-30 July Revolution. The assembly also reviewed the leader's long record as he worked, planned, and struggled for the sake of carrying out the revolution in Iraq. As a result of this discussion, the assembly found that President Saddam Husayn is the right qualified leader to assume the post of president of the republic in Iraq. Thus, the voting was unanimous that Saddam Husayn should be president of the republic.

Regarding the role which the National Assembly will play to ensure the success of this democratic experiment, Ghanim 'Aziz said: The National Assembly members, who are the representatives of the people, have taken upon themselves to exert all their efforts in their respective regions to create a healthy atmosphere for the success of the referendum. It will be a decisive reply to the imperialist onslaught which the United States is leading against Iraq and the Iraqis by its insistence on prolonging the unfair blockade and its aggressive plans to undermine Iraq and the dignity of its people. Therefore, as of now and until the end of the referendum, the National Assembly members will exert all their powers for the success of this campaign, which will truly express the nature of the relationship between the leader and his great people.

Regarding the parliamentary figures and the mediamen who will attend the referendum, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly said: The Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly has sent out two kinds of invitations. The first invitation, which is a general one, was addressed to the speakers of all

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world parliaments, with the exception of the Kuwaiti and Israeli parliaments for reasons which are known to everyone. The speakers or their representatives were invited to head their delegations in the numbers they deem suitable to attend the referendum. They were asked to come to Baghdad before the referendum date to observe the administrative and democratic procedures which will be followed to carry out this process and to achieve two objectives: First, include all the citizens who are permitted to vote under the referendum law; and second, show the delegations the full freedom which will be given to the Iraqi citizen to cast his vote in a free democratic way without any interference. This is because we are fully confident that our people will utter the word they have always repeated for many years and in the most sordid circumstances; namely, "yes, yes" to the leader Saddam Husayn.

The second invitation, which is a personal one, was sent out to certain parliamentary figures, both Arab and international, with whom we have had good relations and who are interested in the cause and the exercise of democracy by all peoples of the world. Full freedom will be given to these parliamentary, media, and party delegations to get acquainted with and to observe all the procedures which will be followed to carry out the referendum. I imagine that the response will be good from these delegations, because many world nations are concerned about Iraq and the cause of democracy. They view the election of a head of state with great interest.

Regarding the participation of the autonomous region in the referendum, Ghanim 'Iziz Khadduri said: The situation there is abnormal, since the region is outside the control of the central administrative authority in Iraq. Therefore, the autonomous region has been excluded from the referendum by law on the basis that it is not possible to guarantee freedom and justice for the citizens in expressing their opinion.

Column Warns of U.S. Attempts To Undermine Referendum

JN0510190595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 4

["Signals" column by Yunus Hasan al-Samarra'i]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi people are getting ready for referendum day on 15 October to say "yes" to the leader of their march, the mujahid Saddam Husayn, for defying hostile imperialist forces. They will do so in the presence of more than 10,000 observers — journalists, politicians, parliamentarians, and representatives of political parties and popular organizations from all parts of the world.

That historic day is only two weeks away. During this time, the United States might resort to tensing up matters through its well-known methods, and to creating an unfavorable situation leading to a rise in food prices and transportation fares and the widespread of rumors and lies. We expect anything from the enemies due to their failure. This is because the referendum move will infuriate them, pop their eyes, and evoke their hatred by giving hostile propaganda media sufficient news material to chew on for days and nights to serve the enemies of the Iraqi people and prolong the unfair blockade.

Let Washington know that the Iraqi people are marching on to their referendum day undeterred. After all, they were not scared of the thousands of tonnes of bombs the United States and NATO dropped during their aggressive war in the immortal Mother of Battles, nor were they scared by the threats which accompanied the first and second recurrent aggressions; they continued protecting themselves, their country, and their leader.

The Iraqi citizens will view such hostile propaganda only with ridicule and sarcasm, because they have become experts on their enemies. They assume that the enemies are getting ready to launch a suspect and biased propaganda campaign. But what can the enemies do when the Iraqis already know what comes out of their vicious minds, from the Tomahawk missile to the smart bomb, the carefully worded statements, and the rumors which are cooked in the best propaganda kitchens.

The people are pledged to block the way to the enemies and to go to the polls as if they are going to a wedding. We will wait and see.

Iraqi Airways Builds Boeing 727, 747 Simulators

JN0610083095 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 7

[Article by Aghadir Mahdi and Qusayy Hasan: "Hundreds of Medical Equipment Items Have Been Reconditioned in Defiance of Blockade Scoundrels; Iraqi Airways Excels on the Ground in Preparation for Takeoff"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Iraqi Airways Company's creative engineering and technical teams have succeeded in making the first ground simulator of its kind in Iraq and the Arab countries. They have also carried out a large-scale campaign to help the companies and enterprises of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and other ministries restore life to many of their damaged or derelict machines and equipment, after the quarters responsible for them have failed to repair them due to their limited capabilities. [passage omitted]

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Regarding this distinguished creative work under the present circumstances, AL-QADISIYAH visited Iraqi Airways Company and its different workshops and plants in order to shed light on their main activities. We met with the company's General Manager, Rabi' Muhammad Salih, who said: Our engineering and technical teams have succeeded in making two ground simulators for Boeing 727 and Boeing 747 for use in training airline crews, including pilots and crew members, in the use of such safety equipment as parachutes, lifeboats, and fire extinguishers in emergencies. Air crews are not allowed to fly unless they have obtained certificates showing that they have had training on such simulators. Such certificates used to cost our crew about $500,000 annually when they had to train in Germany and Egypt. Now, however, it is possible to train them in Iraq, since these are modern simulators with up-to-date equipment and machines.

The general manager said that the cost of building these two simulators is about 500,000 dinars. Thus, Iraqi Airways has managed to save $12,000 in hard currency. In 1989, the British firm "Crossen" [name as transliterated] signed a contract with Iraq Airways to build a small Boeing 727 simulator for $3.2 million without the plane's internal machines. It took only five months to to build these two simulators. Now, Iraqi Airways can receive international and Arab air crews for training, and therefore gain large sums of foreign currency. [passage omitted]

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Knesset Endorses Oslo B 61 Votes to 59

TA0610051895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Knesset endorsed the interim agreement 61 votes to 59 early this morning. The voting, which was personal, was attended by all 120 Knesset members [MK's]. Labor MK's Qahalani and Zismann voted against the agreement.

The Knesset debate lasted some 17 hours, and 83 MK's spoke during the debate. [passage omitted]

Leaders Speak on Oslo B Before Knesset Vote

Rabin Addresses Knesset

TA0510115895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1048 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at an extraordinary Knesset session on the Oslo B agreement — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Chairman, Knesset Members: The Government of Israel would like to begin by wishing all citizens of the State of Israel and Diaspora Jews a happy New Year. We wish all Israelis a year of peace and security.

Knesset Members: Today the government is placing before you the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement concerning the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The government will seek the Knesset's endorsement, and will regard the Knesset resolution as a vote of confidence in the government.

The Jewish people, which have experienced suffering and pain, which have also managed to conserve their religion, mores, and tradition for thousands of years in the Diaspora, have made the dream of generations come true. We were fortunate to personally observe the return of the sons of Zion to their homeland. Here, in Eretz Yisra'el, we rebuilt our nation. Here, in Eretz Yisra'el, we established a state in the land of the prophets, the land that bequeathed the values of morals, justice, and law to the world, the land that was restored to its lawful owners — members of the Jewish nation — after 2,000 years in the Diaspora, land on which we have built a national home and a glorious state.

And yet, we did not returned to an empty land. It was inhabited by Palestinians, who carried out pogroms and waged bloody battles against us for 100 years. Many thousands of people on both sides were killed in the battle for that same strip of land, for that same scrap of territory. They were joined by the armies of Arab countries.

Today, following wars and countless bloody events, we control over 2 million Palestinians through the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and manage their lives through the Civil Administration. This is not a peaceful solution. We can go on fighting. We can go on killing and being killed. But we can also try to stop this endless cycle of bloodshed. We can give peace a chance. This government has decided to give peace a chance. The government has decided to take action to that end.

Knesset Members: The agreement that has been placed before you is the continuation of the implementation of the agreements signed by the Israeli Government and the Palestinians. The first agreement brought before you was the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September 1993 in Washington. The second agreement brought before you was the so-called Cairo Agreement, which was signed on 4 May 1994 in Cairo. Both of these agreements were endorsed by the Knesset.

Mr. Chairman, the two previous agreements and the third one, which we are bringing forth today, express — separately and together — the current government's policy and approach to promote peace in the Middle East. As you all know, we said when we took over the government duties over three years ago that we would seek to achieve a permanent resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which is the longest and most complex part of the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition to the signed peace treaty with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which would not have been achieved without the agreement with the Palestinians, the government is today informing you of a significant breakthrough in the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and in the attempt to put an end to many decades of terror and bloodshed.

Knesset Members: We aspire for a permanent solution to the endless bloody conflict between us on the one hand and the Palestinians and the Arab countries on the other. We aspire for a permanent solution that will include, first and foremost, the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish state, at least 80 percent of whose citizens are Jewish. At the same time, we promise that the non-Jewish residents of Israel — Muslims, Christians, Druze, and others — will enjoy full individual, religious, and civil rights equal to those of any Israeli citizen. In essence, Judaism and racism contradict each other.

In our view, the permanent solution lies in the territory of the State of Israel made up of Eretz Yisra'el as it was under the British Mandate — although that does not refer to the Golan Heights, of course — and alongside it, a Palestinian entity that will be the home of the majority of the Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West

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Bank. We want the entity to be less than a state and we want it to independently manage the lives of the Palestinians under its jurisdiction.

The borders of the State of Israel under the permanent agreement will exceed the borders that existed prior to the Six-Day War. We will not return to the lines of 4 June 1967.

The following are the main changes. [answering a catcall from the floor] Meanwhile, you are the only ones who went back to 1967. The following are the main changes — not all the changes — we want to see in the permanent solution. First of all, a united Jerusalem — to include also Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev — as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty, while preserving the rights of the two other religions, Christianity and Islam, to the freedom of access to and worship in their holy shrines in accordance with their religions. The security border for the defense of the State of Israel will be situated in the Jordan Rift Valley along the broadest possible interpretation of that term. The changes will include the inclusion of the 'Etzyon Bloc, Efrat, Betar, and other settlements — mostly situated east of the pre-Six-Day-War Green Line. There will be settlement blocs — and I wish there were more Qatif Blocs in Judaea and Samaria.

Members of the Knesset, this government, with the Labor Party at its core, declared its positions in the platform presented to the public prior to the election of the present Knesset. At every opportunity, we explained and emphasized to the voters that we preferred a Jewish state, even if not in all areas of Eretz Yisra'el, to a binational state which would have resulted from the annexation of 2.2 million Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We had to choose between Greater Israel, which would have meant a binational state with a population today of 4.5 million Jews and over 3 million Palestinians who constitute a separate religious and political entity....[interrupted by catcalls]

I would like to reiterate this point. We had to choose between Greater Israel, which although we believe the Jewish people have a right to, means a binational state with a population — in today's figures — of 4.5 million Jews and over 3 million Palestinians who constitute a separate religious, political, and national entity; and a state that was smaller in territory but Jewish in nature. We, of our own free will, opted for a Jewish state. We chose a Jewish state because we are convinced that a binational state with 1 million Palestinian Arabs would not be able to fulfill the international Jewish calling of the State of Israel, which is a state of the Jews.

Members of the Knesset, we reiterate that the Palestinians did not pose in the past, and do not constitute today, an existential threat to the State of Israel. However, the major obstacle to the implementation of the peace process between the Palestinians and us is the murderous terrorism perpetrated by the radical Islamic Palestinian terrorist organizations, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, who are joined by the rejectionist fronts. Terrorism randomly strikes at civilians, IDF servicemen, the police, the Border Police, and members of the other security forces. We realize that this murderous terrorism has undermined and continues to detrimentally affect the sense of individual safety enjoyed by Israelis inside their own state and those living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Those elements of the PLO who recognize the authority of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have stopped waging terrorism against us as promised by the chairman in the Declaration of Principles. However, the other terrorist organizations continue to strike at us because their political goal is to murder as many Israelis as they can, and through these murders to torpedo the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Since this is their purpose, we have no intention of abandoning our efforts to reach peace even if these terrorist acts continue to hurt us. For our part, we will make every effort to strike at the terrorists. We are clearly aware of the severity of these terrorist attacks, and together with our attempts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we take all the necessary measures mandated by Israeli law to fight terrorism. This terrorism will not achieve its political goal. We also reiterate our demand that the Palestinian Authority [PA] fulfill its obligation in accordance with the agreements signed between the parties and step up its activities while adopting tougher measures against the murderers of peace and against its enemies in the areas under the PA's control. We know that the PA has taken a series of steps to prevent terrorist attacks against us; however, it must do a great deal more against the terrorist organizations, the enemies of peace.

Knesset members, the interim accord presented to you is the result of intensive work on the part of large delegations. It is over 300 pages long, and its numerous clauses address security issues and the daily life of the Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, as well as that of the Palestinian residents. Let me stress several issues: As a Jewish state we are first and foremost beholden to those sites that are holy to our religion, heritage, and culture. In the interim accord, we were careful with regard to this issue. Here are some examples: Prayer arrangements for both Jews and Arabs in the Cave of the Patriarchs will remain as they are today. We agreed to reexamine the general arrangements in Hebron after three months. We do not

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intend to change anything at the Cave of the Patriarchs. At Rachel's Tomb, a principle has been set according to which worshipers and visitors will not encounter any Palestinian policemen, neither when approaching the tomb nor while at prayer. The main road to Rachel's Tomb from the Gilo area and up to the tomb itself will be under the responsibility of the IDF. The IDF or the Border Police will control the periphery of Rachel's Tomb itself, including three external guard positions, which overlook the parking lot. Moreover, regional security will be upheld by joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols in order to guarantee the safety of those visiting the tomb. We have found a solution to the problem of Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus. Everyone knows that the yeshiva students and teachers only frequent Joseph's Tomb during the daylight hours — that was also the case when the Likud was in power — and do not stay there overnight. The present agreement will permit the daily travel of students to the tomb accompanied by a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol. Armed Israelis will be on guard inside the tomb's perimeters. The Palestinian police will be in charge of guarding the area within the same framework that is in force today, in accordance with the movement and prayer arrangements currently observed in the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el Synagogue in Jericho. For 17 months, these arrangements have been in force in Jericho. Has there been even one incident? Was even one Jew prevented from praying there? As for the other sites holy to Judaism, most of them are in the B or yellow areas, which are under the overriding security control of the IDF. As for the archaeological sites, we found a mutually acceptable solution according to which there will be no changes at any archaeological site without the mutual agreement of both sides. Members of the Knesset, the way that Israel will implement the agreement in order to achieve its political goals as far as the permanent agreement, as well as maintaining security for the settlements and Israelis in the territories, is concerned is designed to guarantee the continuance of daily life and security for both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides.

The first stage of the IDF's redeployment will be aimed at permitting the Palestinians to hold elections for the Palestinian Council and for the person who will head it, without a permanent IDF presence in the Palestinian centers. This IDF redeployment will be implemented in three areas. Area A, or the brown area, will include the municipal boundaries of six towns: Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, and Bethlehem. The civilian and security responsibilities in this area will be transferred to the PA. Area B or the yellow area, will encompass about 450 towns and villages in which Palestinians live on the West Bank. In this area, there will be a separation of powers. The Palestinians will have responsibility for running their own lives, and Israel will have overriding responsibility for security, and I stress, for the security of Israelis and the war against the terrorist threat. In other words, the IDF and the security forces will be able to enter any part of that area at all times. The third area, Area C, or the white area, includes everything not in the two aforementioned areas. This area, which remains under IDF rule, includes all the Jewish settlements, all the IDF installations, and the border area with Jordan. Areas A and B constitute some 27 percent of the West Bank's territory. Area C, which is under our control, constitutes over 70 percent of the West Bank.

Nevertheless, I must inform the Knesset that we have undertaken an additional three-stage redeployment beyond the aforementioned redeployment. This redeployment will be implemented according to a timetable whereby each stage will be carried out following the previous one. The first stage will take place about six months after the establishment of the Palestinian Council in elections. I must emphasize that we did not make a commitment — I repeat, we did not make a commitment — on the scope of the redeployment in each stage. The agreement defines the proviso to the implementation of the redeployment and issues to be discussed in the negotiations on the permanent solution. I quote from the agreement: During the further redeployment phases to be completed within 18 months of the date of the inauguration of the council, powers and responsibilities relating to territory will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction which will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for the issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations.

Several words on what the current agreement says about the permanent agreement. I quote from the agreement, with each speaker representing himself: The negotiations between the sides to the agreement on the permanent status will begin as soon as possible, but no later than 4 May 1996, and to recall, will be concluded by 4 May 1999. Of course, these negotiations will cover additio..al issues, including Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, security arrangements, borders — I repeat, borders — and relations and cooperation with other neighbors, as well as other issues of joint interest. In other words, based on this accord, among the components that will be considered in any discussion with the Palestinians on further redeployment are those linked to the permanent solution. Furthermore, in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Likud Chairman Netanyahu expressed surprise at the following clause: Nothing in this agreement will have an influence on or harm the outcome of the negotiations on the permanent status, which will be conducted in accordance with the Decla-

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ration of Principles. Neither of the sides to the agreement will by entering into this agreement be considered to be yielding on any of his rights, demands, or existing positions or to be recanting them. Neither of the sides will take any step to change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip prior to the completion of the negotiations on the permanent status.

I would like to remind you that we made a commitment to the Knesset not to uproot a single settlement within the framework of the interim arrangement and not to freeze building and natural growth. Members of the Knesset, we are aware of the fact that the PA has so far not met its commitment to amend the Palestinian National Covenant and that all the promises on that have not been met. I wanted to bring to your attention that I regard those amendments as a supreme test of the desire and ability of the PA, and they will constitute an important and serious test of the continued implementation of the entire agreement. The PLO undertook to convene two months following the inauguration of the council and to officially approve the amendments to the Palestinian National Covenant, based on written undertakings by the PLO chairman to the prime minister on 9 September 1993 and 4 May 1994.

Members of the Knesset, a review of the maps and clauses in the accord on the additional stages of the redeployment reveals that Israel is maintaining total freedom of action in order to fulfill those security and political aims that touch on the permanent solution, and that the division of the areas gives the IDF and the security forces full security control in Areas B and C, except for the towns.

More Hamas murderers have escaped to an Arab state with which we have peace than to the safe havens in the territories. A difficult problem arose in Hebron, and it was agreed between the sides that before the Halhul bypass road is completed, there will not be full redeployment in the town of Hebron, which will require an additional six months from the day of the signing of the agreement, that is, by 28 March 1996. In our assessment, six months are required to construct that bypass road, and when the Halhul bypass road and the Bet Hagay-Har Manoah-Qiryat Arba' section of the Hebron bypass road are completed, Israelis living in south Hebron will be able to travel without crossing those areas of Hebron where there is no Israeli presence. Those areas are heavily populated with Arabs and contain locations where fatal attacks have taken place, such as the Hazekhukhit junction.

The following are several more details of the agreement, which was reached following hard work.

The transfer of police forces from Area A, which is entirely under Palestinian control, to Area B, where Israelis and Palestinians share responsibilities, requires approval [last word in English] from the joint supervisory mechanism, the DCO [district coordination office]. The significance is that there is no passage of Palestinian policemen without Israeli approval. The passage of Palestinian policemen in uniform and/or armed in 25 Palestinian villages where police stations will be set up in Area B will require coordination and approval by us. There will be a redeployment of Israeli-Palestinian liaison offices in the field, which will operate joint mobile units for anything that crops up. I must stress the activity to build security components at the Israeli settlements: fences, bypass roads, lights, electronic gates. The bypass roads are aimed at enabling Israelis to move without crossing the Palestinian population areas that will become the PA's responsibility. In any case, the IDF will not redeploy from the seven main cities before the bypass roads are completed. In general, some 500 million shekels will be invested in bypass roads.

Remaining our responsibility is external security on the borders with Egypt and Jordan, in the air space over all the territories, and in the naval space in the Gaza Strip.

Members of the Knesset, the road to conciliation also passes through the prisons. The prisons currently hold over 5,000 Palestinians. Based on a cabinet decision, prisoners and detainees will be released on the condition that they are in the following categories: female and male prisoners who have served over two thirds of their sentences and female and male prisoners charged with or imprisoned for security offenses not involving death or grave injury, which means that those who murdered Israelis or seriously harmed them will not be released. Those whose release will be considered will be prisoners or detainees charged with or convicted of nonsecurity criminal offenses and citizens of Arab states held in Israel until extradition orders are implemented. Also to be considered for release are prisoners and detainees over the age of 50 and under 18 who have been incarcerated for at least 10 years, as well as unhealthy prisoners and detainees. Each prisoner or detainee, however, will not be released until he signs an agreement to uphold the law and avoid terrorist activity. In the wake of the Cairo agreement, hundreds remained in jail because they refused to sign such a document. The extradition of escaped murders was a controversial issue. We do not take that problem lightly. We continue to demand the extradition of such murderers, based on the signed agreement.

Members of the Knesset, we will begin the redeployment 10 days after the signing of the agreement in Washington. In the first stage, representatives of the

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Civil Administration in 14 Palestinian areas will be pulled out. The overall timetable will be finalized within two weeks of the signing of the agreement. The agreement includes dozens and hundreds of other details including: elections and the way Palestinian residents of united Jerusalem who refused to accept Israeli citizenship offered to them by all Israeli Governments will vote; water; electricity; expanding the Jericho area by 10 percent without it's impacting in any way the life of the residents of the Jordan Rift Valley; safe passage; and so on. Because of the time factor, we will not be able to go into each detail separately, but they are all set out before you in the agreement document.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Knesset, the entire agreement is before you. There are no secret appendices or letters. That is the agreement on which dozens — perhaps even hundreds — of government officials and army officers, under the leadership of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, labored. We thank them with all our hearts. Today, we could be beginning a new stage in the history of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. We know the odds, and we are determined to do our very best to examine every opportunity and to reduce every risk. From the bottom of our hearts, we call on all the citizens of the State of Israel, including those living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza region, as well as the Palestinian residents, to give peace a chance, to give trying to end acts of hatred a chance, to give a different life a chance. We call on both the Jews and the Palestinians to show restraint, respect human dignity, and live in peace and security. We are taking a new path which could lead us to the era of peace and the end of wars. That is our prayer and our hope. Happy New Year to the members of the Knesset and the entire people of Israel.

Netanyahu Addresses Knesset

TA0510191495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1133 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Address by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu at an extraordinary Knesset session on the Oslo B agreement — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, Knesset Members: Throughout the history of mankind, many peoples have been exiled from their homeland. One of two things has happened to these nations: They have either found a new homeland, or dissolved in other nations and disappeared from the face of the earth. Only the Jewish nation would not succumb to this fate; it has refused to assimilate into other nations, and would not choose a different homeland. With endless devotion and dedication, it has maintained its unique nature and the dream to return to the Land of Israel, its ancient homeland. My heart is in the East, while I am the West, Rabbi Yehuda Halevi wrote in the Middle Ages in faraway Spain. In another poem, Zion Will You Not Ask, he said: My heart weeps for Bet El and Hebron; I wish I could walk barefoot and naked upon my ancestors' graves.

Each member of the Jewish nation present here today is here thanks to that aspiration, that dream that guided our forefathers in their exile. Remember Israel's children and know always that for as long as you are not sitting on the Mountains of Judaea, in the homeland, you are in exile. This is how my grandfather, Rabbi Nathan Milikowsky, may he rest in peace, called on Jewish children he taught in the exile. He went on to say: We must never forget Eretz Yisra'el, and we must never forget our past, our history. If we do, we will have no future and will be lost, because who will we be then? My grandfather believed this and thus immigrated to Eretz Yisra'el. The grandfathers and grandmothers of us all believed so, including the first leaders of the Labor Movement, Berl Katzenelson and David Ben-Gurion.

By the power of this vision, we returned to our land and reestablished our state. Where is the past of which my grandfather spoke? Where are the roots of the history of our nation? They are in the mountains of Judaea and Jerusalem; in our forefathers' tombs in Hebron, and in Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem; in Teqo'a, the city of the Prophet Amos; in 'Anatot, Jeremiah's hometown; in Shilo and Bet El, where the prophets spoke; in Bet Horon and Ma'ale Levona, where the Maccabees fought. Yitzhaq Rabin, this is the real estate of the Jewish nation. These are the assets of which we have dreamed and for which we have fought through the millennia of our existence as a nation. I want to tell you: This is not just real estate; these are the eternal assets of the people of Israel. Our aspiration to return to them and refusal to forsake them brought us back here.

Mr. Rabin, you speak in an indifferent tone about 400 Jews in Hebron, and I say that the issue is not only 400 Jews in Hebron, but 4,000 years of Jewish history that connect us to this land and brought us back to it. You, Mr. Prime Minister, made an appalling remark the other day. You said that the Bible is not our land registry. I say: The Bible is our registry, our mandate, our proof of ownership. [Rabin denies this from the floor, claiming that Netanyahu is lying] Knesset Members, this is not a matter of right or left, Likud or Labor. This is the very foundation of Zionist existence. When David Ben-Gurion stood before the British in 1937, he raised the Bible in his hand and declared: This is our mandate over Eretz Yisra'el. And you, Mr. Rabin, speak thus of the Bible. Who could ever believe that an Israeli prime minister would say that the Bible is not our land registry. Only if we examine remarks you and members of your

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cabinet made can we fully understand the meaning of what you have done — an unprecedented deed in the history of the Jewish nation. It is true that in the past we were defeated, exiled, and forced to cede parts of our homeland. Sometimes, even in this generation, we had to accept facts forced upon us at a given time for lack of a better choice. It has never happened, however, that Jews willingly, gleefully, gave away parts of their homeland, forsaking the recognition that we have a right to this land.

Everyone knows that dreams sometimes do not come true, but this usually leads to heartbreak and terrible pain. You — a handful of leftists, a group of ministers and advisers and a group of people who do not believe their eyes, seeing a government carrying out their plan to annihilate the dream of the Jewish nation — you are joyous and happy. Look at you now. Why are you so happy? What is there to rejoice about? Mr. Rabin, I heard your speech. I heard you mention Jewish values. Do not feed us with your tales. Do not tell us that your policy is motivated by Jewish values. Your government is the most dissociated, the one farthest removed from Jewish values that we have ever had. I say this with pain. This dissociation from Israel's tradition is the true background for your moves and conduct. For you, Hebron is an Arab town; Judaea and Samaria is the West Bank; and the Golan, according to the foreign minister, is Syrian land. This is why, it seems to me, you gave away the heart of the homeland with such astonishing ease. No man gives away parts of his home and land with such ease and joy. Only he who feels he is an intruder, an invader, a thief would do such a thing. Only he who feels like that, treats his forefathers' land as real estate, as a burden that one is only too happy to remove. This, Knesset Members, is the worst threat I see in this agreement.

I assure you, I see other dangers, security, strategic, political dangers that are very grave. The most fundamental threat that this agreement poses, however, is the harm you have inflicted on the vision, the belief, the recognition of our right. A nation that does not believe in its own rights, that has lost its dream, cannot go on struggling for and protecting its existence. You know full well that difficult struggles are yet to come. After all, your willful waiving of our rights will not stop at some artificial Green Line. It will reach Jerusalem, the 1967 lines, and the 1947 lines. As far as Arab nationalism and Muslim fundamentalism are concerned, the line of concessions will not stop before it reaches the blue line — the Mediterranean Sea.

Mr. Rabin, let me ask you: What will you tell 'Arafat and his brother, as he calls him, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin when they come asking for the Triangle and the Galilee? Will you tell them: Well, we have no rights in Bet El and Ari'el, but we have a right to hold on to al-Tira and al-Tayyibah?! What will you say when they demand the right to return to Jaffa, 'Akko, and Shaykh Munis, on the ruins of which today stands the Tel Aviv University and the Neve Avivim neighborhood where, if I am not mistaken, you and Foreign Minister Peres both reside? Will you tell them: Take that booty and, because I live here, I will keep this booty? Is this the justification for your being here? Are you living on looted property? Is this what has become of Zionism? Is this what has become of the Jewish state, that it has a prime minister who denies the basic rights of the Jewish nation to their land?

Mr. Speaker, if we have no right to be in Hebron and Ari'el, we have no right to any place in Eretz Yisra'el. You, however, in waiving our right to this land, have created the loophole through which the flood of insatiable and endless Arab demands will come pouring in. Have no illusions. A military force is no substitute for the loss of national faith and will. No military power can help a nation that has lost faith in the justness of its path. We have seen examples in history, including recently, of how giant powers collapsed just as soon as their basic idea and vision died away. This is precisely what could happen here if you continue leading the nation on your path. If, God forbid, you succeed in cutting it off from its past, its heritage, the emotional connection with its land, you will be leaving the people of Israel without a future.

Mr. Speaker, we are not weak; just the opposite. We are strong and powerful. Ever since our historic victory in the Six-Day War, the threat that hovered over Jerusalem and the coastal plains has been kept at a distance. We moved our eastern border from the banks of the Yarqon River to the Jordan River banks, and we provided the State of Israel with a security strip, a mighty protective wall in the shape of the Judaea, Samaria, and Golan mountains. We deprived them of their option for war, and from this emerged the option of peace. It gained momentum, slowly and gradually, because the border was far. From here, we are offering our neighbors a self-government autonomy plan. This is a fair and honorable offer which, alone, could allow us to maintain both our security and our rights. We recognize the need to find a solution for the Palestinians. This is why we went to Camp David and Madrid, and this is why we are offering the Palestinians an administrative autonomy. Autonomy, Mr. Prime Minister, not a state. Self-government in which the Palestinians will uninterruptedly run their lives and business in the areas densely populated by Arabs. Around them, there will be Jewish security zones, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] — and only

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the IDF — will be in charge of security. This is our plan, and some of our neighbors have gradually begun to accept it during the peace moves the Likud governments started with Camp David.

Pretending you are implementing the autonomy plan, devised by the Likud, you are establishing a full-fledged Palestinian state today. This Palestinians state will gradually spread to all the areas of Judaea and Samaria, as far as the dangerous 1967 lines. On this border, they will station an armed military force of tens of thousands of soldiers equipped with the most upgraded weapons. These soldiers are already covering for terrorists who emerge from and flee there. This is the essence of the Oslo agreements, and Mr. Prime Minister, this is your vision. This is the true essence of what you presented here today: Not a strong Jewish state stretched along most of the width of Eretz Yisra'el, but a tiny, narrow, threatened country on the small part of Eretz Yisra'el. The security of this state's residents is at the mercy of Yasir 'Arafat. And what did you get in return for the far-reaching concessions you have made so far? Two years ago, you promised us a new Middle East; let the sun shine, you told us. You promised us a new era of peace, reconciliation, and personal security. And we got rising terror, buses exploding everywhere in Israel, anxious parents. I say this with regret and pain because, since the State of Israel was founded, there never were two years in which personal security had reached such a low. And, again I regret this, Gaza and Jericho have become just what we believed they would — safe havens for terrorists. We can simply replay previous Knesset debates and the things me and my friends said here.

Please, do not tell us it is only Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad who carry out terror attacks. Those who refuse to extradite murderers of Jews, who constantly preach jihad till the last Palestinian child, who do not even try to disarm Hamas, who for the 1,000th time sell you the promise to amend the Palestinian Covenant, are senior partners to terrorism and to political fraud. The Oslo A agreement is exploding in your face, and you learn nothing and change nothing. You draw no conclusions from the burning defeat of the first stage that even you termed a mere experiment.

Now, we are looking at the Oslo B agreement. I read it carefully. What emerges from it is not your intention to establish a Jewish state, but to jeopardize the one that exists. We will not be cutting ourselves off from the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria, but we are ceding the security that the territories of Judaea and Samaria provide. You abandoned Greater Israel for the sake of a tiny, dwarfed State of Israel the security of which depends on your friend, 'Arafat. You have reestablished some restricted area in which Jews will have to crowd, while areas in the heart of our homeland will be out of bounds or practically inaccessible for Jews.

You, Mr. Prime Minister made us several promises over the past two years, past two months, and even last couple weeks; some you repeated today, some not. One promise you made was important. You said: We will not return to the 1967 borders. Well, I saw the maps first at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting on the eve of Yom Kippur. What I saw gave me a shock. I saw red, or rather, I saw yellow. Everything was painted yellow. This is the great surprise. I am talking to the public now, the public from which you tried to conceal the maps till the very last moment, under various pretexts — the maps are not ready, not enough were printed, and so on — thank you for more stories. When the public sees these maps, it will see the great surprise of this agreement. It will see the size and location of the yellow B zone. We see the size and location of the yellow areas and that the entire B area lies along the Green Line, which should be called the yellow line now. On its western end, that which touches upon the coastal plain, you drew a yellow border on exactly the 1967 borderline. Dayr Ballut was given back, sitting right above Yehud; Falamah is right above Kokhav Ya'ir; Qibya overlooks Modi'in.

Mr. Speaker, during the previous elections campaign, I stood in a place called Rantis, on the hills overlooking Ben-Gurion Airport in Lod, and I said that if this government is elected, it will give Rantis back. This was followed by an outcry, and my remark was angrily denied in another clip. And here, I look at the map, and see Rantis marked yellow, along with all the areas and lines that mark the 1967 borders. Villages bordering on Umm al-Fahm, overlooking 'Afula and the Yizre'el Valley; villages on the slopes of the Hebron Hills, overlooking Beersheba. [answering heckling from the floor] Nothing shocks you because you care about nothing. You value nothing that could be shocked.

The people who voted Labor in the Jordan Rift Valley are shocked because they too saw the map that was supposed to provide us with a continuous security zone in the valley. What do we see? We see Jericho enlarged to the extent that the distance between the border fence and the territory given to the PLO is 700 meters wide, in two places. To this, you have now added islands of Area B in the Jordan Rift Valley, in the Jiftlik, near Argaman and Tomer and, according to the agreement, the islands can naturally expand later. Labor voters are telling you: You cheated us, abandoned us, and certainly abandoned the idea that the Jordan Rift Valley will be Israel's security border.

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My friend Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem mayor and Knesset member, rightfully remarked: Mr. Prime Minister, you spoke of greater Jerusalem, then you narrowed it down to Jerusalem plus, and now I see Jerusalem minus. Let us take the corridor first. It should not have been there in the first place. Why do we need a corridor to approach Jerusalem? Is Jerusalem some cul-de-sac, some dead-end ally? Why did you bring us back to the 1967 borders? You returned Biddu, al-Nabi Samu'il, Mount Adar, and Bayt Iksa. I asked Ari'el Sharon where the first operation in the Jerusalem area he took part in was. He commanded a unit that carried out a retaliation operation in al-Nabi Samu'il. He walked the very areas you are giving back now. Bayt Iksa, which you returned, is 700 meters away from the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. The border is drawn in yellow there. So, do not tell us stories about Jerusalem? You are establishing a continuous Palestinian belt from Bethlehem in the south to Ramallah in the north, through Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah to the east choking Jerusalem. And all of that is just the first course. This is what you are giving us now. Later, we will be served three more courses of withdrawal from areas you have not yet given. This is only the beginning.

Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] told us — and I learned to respect Abu-'Ala' who, though he sometimes tells lies, says the truth more frequently than this government — he told us: At the end of the process with this government, we will have 89 percent of the territory. He did not say that they will have 90 or 80 percent after the three courses of withdrawal. He was very precise — 89 percent. You, Mr. Rabin, may deny this, saying that there are no agreements on leaving PLO institutions in Jerusalem, that there is no Golan document — we have heard it all before, denials, denials, denials — you may tell us that you are not returning to the 1967 borders because there are several percents left to us if you shave a little off the Latrun enclave. Who are you fooling? It is just as you have said: I will not get off the Golan Heights because I will be leaving some wooden shack behind. You see, I did not get off. You are returning to the 1967 borders. One look at this agreement and your first promise is dead.

Now you are making a second promise. There are a dozen PLO institutions operating in Jerusalem, and the Orient House is the seat of the coming Palestinian government. The Palestinians are announcing that they are establishing an East Jerusalem city council, and you do nothing about it. The agreement, as Knesset Member Begin pointed out before, adds an even graver thing: a political division of Jerusalem. You allow the East Jerusalem Arabs to vote for a different authority — not a municipal authority, a separate national authority. You changed the name from ballot boxes to containers into which they will be casting their votes. Everyone knows, however, and I am saying this with pain and great remorse as a Jew: If you are allowed to go on, you will divide Jerusalem too.

The third and last promise you made was that you will insist on security. After seeing this map — and I invite the entire nation to look at it — I say you have created security chaos. You are allowing the Palestinian police everywhere, in every village, on every road. You created an enormous friction area between the Jewish and Arab populations. Some 150,000 of our brothers, residents of Judaea and Samaria, 40,000 of whom are children, are in immediate danger. But, after all, they are only 3 percent of the population. They are unimportant. You, however, are risking all those residing along the dividing line, and incidentally, the entire country is located along the dividing line according to this agreement. This is because the safe-haven cities, or rather the safe districts as they should be called, will not be in faraway Gaza. They will be one minute away from Kfar Saba, three minutes from Ra'anana, and five minutes from Hadera. They will be minutes away from every Israeli town. And do not tell me that there is just a risk of terror. We have seen three wars — in 1956, in 1967, and the war of Lebanon — started when uncontrollable terror escalated. You are introducing an immediate threat of terror and a strategic threat to the very existence of this state. Thus you are breaching your third promise as well, jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel and its residents.

Nothing is left of your promises. You are bringing Israel back to the 1967 borders, redividing Jerusalem, and harming security. Well, Mr. Prime Minister, I am not surprised. I am used to your promises. You said you will not get off the Golan Heights, that you will not talk to the PLO, that you will not establish territorial facts during this government's term, that you will not establish a Palestinian state, that you will not allow PLO offices in Jerusalem, that you will not lift the closure until the murderers are handed over to us, and now you are making more promises. Look, I wish to tell you: I understand that you understand that the people do not believe you anymore. This is why you are using a new magic word. The prime minister came up with a new word — separation.

Mr. Speaker, now that all of the prime minister's promises have been breached, he comes to us with a new promise, separation. What separation? Where separation? Separation exists in our autonomy plan, practical separation in everyday life: autonomous enclaves in an Israeli security district which separates the autonomous areas from Israeli cities. This agreement is just the oppo-

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site: You created isolated islands of Jewish settlement, and an enormous Palestinian region reaching Kfar Saba, Hadera, 'Afula, and inside Jerusalem. You did not separate us from the Judaea and Samaria Arabs. You have forsaken the country's security and are placing the entire country in great danger. This is your vision. Now you are speaking of public support. The public sees and understands what is happening here. The public support for Oslo A has significantly eroded between then and the Oslo B signing. This is clearly seen in what is happening here in this house. You had a majority of 11 Knesset members for Oslo A — 61-50. Now, you are making promises, giving away cars — a Toyota, I heard — and barely squeezing out a majority of one or two.

Let me tell you something: This is not Oslo B; this is Oslo G or H. We saw the ceremony of Oslo, in Washington and in Cairo, the Nobel prize ceremony, and one in Taba and another in Washington — an endless number of ceremonies. The people, Mr. Prime Minister, no longer buy this. I do not want to return to Gaza, but you have returned Gaza to Tel Aviv. We left Gaza, and you brought it to every place in Israel. Do not talk to me about or scare me with Gaza.

Even this grave and dangerous agreement determines that nothing in it will impair of affect the results of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. Naturally, the interesting question to you is: Who will stop the race to the 1967 borders? Mr. Rabin? Mr. Peres? Mr. Sarid? Will they fight the PLO to distance the Palestinian entity from Israel's cities in the permanent agreement and implement the separation of which you speak? Come on. We know exactly where you will bring us. Let me tell you what we will do: We will conduct a policy that, first and foremost, leans on the Jewish rights in their country and our interests — those of the State of Israel, not of 'Arafat. I am certain, and I have a reason for saying this, that most of the public supports our way, the way of the national camp. Luckily for us, there is not much time left for you to cause more damage. I know that certain facts will be determined; that may be. A lot, however, will remain open.

We will return to the idea of autonomy and self-government. Within the framework of the autonomy we are offering the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria, we will allow them to run their lives with dignity. At the same time, guarding the security and fighting terrorism everywhere will be in the hands of the IDF alone. We will establish broad security zones around the autonomous zones in order to distance the threat of terror from the Israeli cities. Israel's water resources will remain solely in Israeli hands. Open spaces will be designated for Jewish settlements, not for the massive return of refugees from the Arab countries. Control over the border crossings on the Jordan River and in Rafah will be exclusively in Israel's hands too.

The entire national camp aspires to true peace. This is precisely why we oppose this agreement. True peace will not emerge from surrendering, caving in, and waiving our essential interests or our historic rights. True peace will not emerge from a shriveled and dwarfed Israel. It will only come from a strong Israel, certain of its path and justness, and determined to fight for its national interests.

I call on the prime minister today, in the last minute: You know that the Jewish nation in Israel and abroad is split in half and deeply divided over this agreement. At least half the people — and I say more — believe this agreement harms the foundations of our existence and consider it a real threat to our future life in this country. You may force the agreement upon us with a slim majority of one Knesset member, one of the worst thieves of votes, but this move will only expand the rift in the nation and harm yet another foundation of our existence. If you believe, Mr. Prime Minister, that a majority of the people support your government, bring the agreement to the people, ask for their confidence. We will respect every democratic decision. A public decision on such a crucial issue — through elections or a referendum — will close the gaps here and allow us to go on as a united society. The unity of the people is not just an important national value, it is a primary strategic asset in the balance of power between us and the Arab world around us. These days, mainly Yom Kippur, are days of reflection for the individual and the society. I call on you to accept my demand, or rather the request the president has repeatedly been making: Stop, think, reflect, and see where you are heading. Listen to the people's sentiment, and guard its unity at all costs.

Happy new year.

MK Qahalani Explains Vote Against Oslo 2

TA0610081195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset has endorsed the interim stage of the agreement with the Palestinians, known as Oslo 2. The vote was 61 to 59. Labor Knesset Members [MK's] Avigdor Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zismann voted against the agreement. The vote took place around 0400 after 15 hours of debate. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Avigdor Qahalani, who seemed to be wavering, decided to stand by 'Imanu'el Zismann, and both now are faced with running with the Third Way movement in the next elections. About

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three hours ago they voted no-confidence in their own Labor Party government. After a series of meetings with Prime Minister Rabin and between themselves, Qahalani and Zismann convened a joint news conference at 0045 and said there was no turning back. This was Qahalani:

[Qahalani] Yes, I am going to vote against. I think that this agreement is not a good agreement for the future of our country, and this is the reason that we have decided, 'Imanu'el with me together, to vote against.

[Ze'ev] The prime minister made a significant compromise. He said that the further redeployments in this agreement would go to the Knesset for additional votes.

[Qahalani] There are other issues that we are worried about: The future of the Jordan valley; the future of Gush 'Etzyon; the future of Jerusalem, and there are some facts in the area that we cannot go back from those facts, and we have our map that we showed the prime minister. We are ready to compromise, but we are not ready to give all the land to the Palestinians, and this is maybe the main issue.

[Ze'ev] Prime Minister Rabin left the plenum following his narrow victory, saying implementation will go ahead:

[Rabin] We had a majority. It's a small majority because two members of the Labor Party betrayed their mandate and voted against the government. I deplore it, but since we have the majority, we'll continue with the implementation of the agreement, the implementation of the DOP [Declaration of Principles] in the West Bank. [passage omitted] [end recording]

General Says Agreement Boosts 'Arafat's Status

TA0610083695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, believes that the interim agreement is satisfactory from the security point of view and that it offers solutions to the problems which may surface as a result of its implementation.

Maj. Gen. Shahor told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the interim agreement has strengthened the status of 'Arafat and Fatah vis-a-vis the rejectionist front — headed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

Opposition Holds Large Rally in Jerusalem

TA0610084995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A crowd estimated 20,000 to 30,000 flooded Zion Square in central Jerusalem last night to protest the Oslo 2 accords, then marched by torch light to the Knesset chanting: "The people didn't sign."

"This government does not have a Zionist majority," Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu told the crowd. "The Zionist public in Israel has not approved Oslo 2."

As the demonstration reached the Knesset, a number of MKs [Knesset members] stepped from the cafeteria to the balcony to look at the long procession of moving lights winding its way to the building. Organizers said thousands more demonstrators joined the crowd at the Knesset, where more speeches were delivered.

One of the leaflets distributed read, "Rabin, go home before you give it away."

The crowd pressed up to the front gates of the Knesset, watched by police on horseback, stationed — along with a water cannon — inside the grounds.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 6 October carries a report by Alex Stomakhin on page 1, adding: "Dozens of demonstrators lunged at the car of Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer as it was driving past the Knesset. The demonstrators pounded the car and threw cans and bottles at it."

[The report further states that "a photograph of Rabin dressed in SS uniform was passed around the crowd."]

Some 2,500 policemen were on hand throughout the demonstration, organized by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the right-wing parties. Police said nine Kakh activists were arrested.

Speaking from the balcony of the Hotel Ron overlooking Zion Square, Netanyahu — greeted by chants of "Bibi, Bibi" — told the crowd: "Only two years ago, when the Knesset approved Oslo 1, the vote was 61 in favor and 50 against. The erosion in support is not only a result of what has happened on the ground, but also a direct result of the activity of the national camp. The minority has turned into the majority, and today most of the country is with us."

Because of faulty speakers at the beginning of the rally, much of Netanyahu's speech was drowned out. When he heard part of the crowd chant "Rabin is a traitor," he

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waived his finger in a sign of disapproval, and tried to quiet them down.

Extended boos were heard when Netanyahu, and any of the other speakers, including Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi, Rabbi Hayim Druckman, and the NRP's [National Religious Party] Zvulun Hammer, mentioned YI'UD's [Independent and Democratic Israel] Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb.

Netanyahu was followed to the podium by Tzomet head Refa'el Eytan, and then by David Levi, whose voice was drowned out by sustained boos and shouting.

"Because of you, we're here tonight," one protester shouted out. "You cost us the election."

Levi tried to speak over the crowd, but was unable to do so. He finally threw up his hands, turned, and left the balcony. Israel Radio reported him as saying the crowd was "incited," and he has "nothing to do with them."

The police top brass, including Inspector-General Asaf Hefetz, monitored the situation from a side balcony and the roof. When Hefetz stepped onto the side balcony, he was also greeted by boos, shouts, and chants of "Police state, police state."

[The DAVAR item further reports: "The right-wing's objections focus mainly on the Hebron and bypass road questions. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza announced it will not accept the presence of Palestinian policemen on the future bypass roads. If the right wing's plans to conduct armed patrols following army withdrawal from the autonomy area are carried out, violent confrontations between settlers and Palestinian Police can be expected.

["Hebron settlers have announced that they will not permit the Ashkenazi cemetery in Hebron to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority.

["The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza says it will not permit any deployment of Palestinian Police on the future bypass roads, segments of which — such as parts of road No. 35, the Trans-Judaea highway, and the Hebron bypass roads — are to cross the autonomous territory."]

Goldfarb, Segev Consider Joining Labor Party

TA0510122995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Oct 95 p A4

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] Alex Goldfarb, the deputy minister of construction and housing, has informed the leaders of the Labor Party that with the opening of the Knesset's winter session, toward the end of this month, he will convene the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction in order to reach a decision on disbanding the movement and merging with the Labor Party.

In contacts held between Labor leaders and Goldfarb over the past week in a bid to convince the latter to support the interim agreement in the Knesset, it was agreed that Goldfarb would register as a Labor Party member in the very near future and compete in the primaries in his constituency, the city of Ashqelon. The Labor Party leaders promised to help get Goldfarb elected representative of his district from the Labor Party list for the next Knesset elections. Goldfarb was assured that if elected, he would continue to serve as the deputy construction and housing minister in the next Labor government.

Goldfarb was also promised that Labor officials would make efforts to expand his authority and the budgets under his control at the Construction and Housing Ministry. Labor officials also promised Goldfarb that if the Labor Party won the next elections but Goldfarb failed to win a Knesset seat, he would be appointed ambassador to one of the CIS republics.

Goldfarb himself denied that his decision to vote in favor of the agreement stemmed from promises received from the Labor Party. Upon leaving his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday [3 October], during which he announced his intention to support the agreement, Goldfarb said that he had received more enticing proposals from right-wing circles in Israel and the United States, including, he asserted, generous financial offers, "which could have set me, as well as my children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren, up for life."

Energy Minister Gonen Segev, also from the YI'UD faction, is holding separate contacts with regard to his joining the Labor Party. He may run in the Labor primaries in the Haifa District. Segev and Goldfarb disagree on the issue of which body is authorized to make the decision on dismantling the YI'UD movement and merging it with the Labor Party. Goldfarb contends that the faction, of which he is chairman, is authorized to reach such a decision; whereas Segev claims that only the movement's institutions, which will be appointed in elections scheduled to be held soon, are authorized to do so.

In contacts with Labor leaders, Goldfarb and a group of YI'UD branch managers have demanded that after its merger with the Labor Knesset faction, YI'UD be recognized as a separate division in the party, with its members guaranteed appropriate representation in all the movement's institutions. Labor sources pointed

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out that although the YI'UD members had not been promised any safe slots on the party's list, an effort would be made to guarantee that they would receive fitting representation in all Labor institutions.

IDF Commanders Given Redeployment Order

TA0610050795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The briefing by the commander of the Central Command, in which he gave senior Judaea and Samaria officers the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment plan, has just ended. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the briefing of the officers was held on Ammunition Hill with the participation of the head of the Logistics Branch and the commander of IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria. The participants were told that the IDF's redeployment would start on 19 November in Janin, with the withdrawal from a different town taking place each week, based on the agreement.

IDF, Palestinians To Hold Coordination Meeting

TA0610084095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meeting between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinians to coordinate the IDF redeployment will be held next week. The participants will be Major General Gabi Ofir for Israel, and al-Hajj Isma'il, one of the Palestinians commanders. This was announced by Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, in a briefing yesterday to IDF commanders in Judaea and Samaria on the redeployment operation, dubbed Yoman Hadash [New Diary].

Maj. Gen. Biran directed the officers to show extreme sensitivity in their handling of the settlers, because some of them are in a state of great concern and anxiety.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the commander of the Central Command further ordered the brigade commanders to meet the settlers, present the agreement to them, and assure them that the IDF is committed to defend them.

Weizman Pardons 12 Palestinian Female Prisoners

TA0610120095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman has decided to pardon 12 Palestinian women prisoners from East Jerusalem. These prisoners will be released as stipulated in the interim agreement. The president has decided not to commute the sentences of two other prisoners who were convicted of murder. One of the two, Mayah Walid al-Ghusayn, murdered an Arab woman detainee she suspected collaborating with Israel; the other, Hinam al-Ja'bari, murdered a yeshiva student in Jerusalem seven years ago.

Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the fate of the other Palestinian women prisoners will be decided by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the territories and the Klugman committee on prisoners release.

Hundreds of 'Collaborators' To Seek Asylum

TA0610102595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The lives of hundreds of Civil Administration Palestinian employees in the West Bank, former Israel Police officers, as well as collaborators will be in jeopardy following the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank. A document drafted by the defense establishment and distributed to the Foreign Ministry, the police, and the IDF reveals that 1,000 Palestinians suspected of collaboration with Israel have been murdered since the outbreak of the intifadah, most of them in the West Bank.

The document further reveals that 31 Palestinians have been murdered since the establishment of the self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on 18 May 1994; of these, 29 were killed in the West Bank. Most of the victims had been suspected of collaboration with Israeli security forces.

Hundreds of Palestinian staffers of the Civil Administration, as well as Palestinians who worked for Israel Police or were employed as "helpers" now fear for their lives. The Civil Administration has recently received dozens of asylum petitions from Palestinians. The defense establishment believes that the special administration, which deals with "the rehabilitation of collaborators in Israel," is about to receive hundreds of additional appeals. They estimate their number at 500 at least.

The Palestinians' fear is based on the events in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli withdrawal. During the initial period of the Palestinian Authority [PA], dozens of people suspected of collaboration with Israel were taken to the Gaza police station and interrogated by the Palestinian Security Services [PSS]. They were subjected to rough interrogation, and some may have died as a result.

At present, suspected collaborators are still questioned in PSS interrogation rooms in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and according to reports, are brutally tortured.

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A senior Central Command officer has told HA'ARETZ that since the defense establishment is concerned about the danger to the helpers in territories to be evacuated by the IDF, it is preparing infrastructure for their rehabilitation in Israel, should they request it.

The defense establishment's rehabilitation administration, headed by Res. Major General Menahem 'Eynan, is currently taking care of some 800 Palestinian families which have been relocated to Israel. For that purpose, the administration hired special personnel who see the families through the various stages of their absorption in Israel.

Defense establishment sources stress that every collaborator can be included in the rehabilitation plan, if he so wishes. The Central Command officer said Israel has a duty to assist anyone who had assisted it, and budgets for individual assistance to every rehabilitated person have been allocated. In recent weeks, the rehabilitation administration has received pledges from government ministries to extend special assistance to collaborators living in Israel.

Extradition Request for Abu-Marzuq Filed in U.S.

TA0510135095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel today filed an extradition request with the United States for Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political bureau. Abu-Marzuq is wanted in Israel for murder and conspiracy. The detention order and evidence against him were relayed to the Americans some two months ago. Our correspondent Nira Amsalem reports that a U.S. court will begin discussing the extradition request in some two weeks.

Envoy: Saudi Policy on U.S. Jews 'Double-Faced'

TA0410135695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by Shlomo Shamir in New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud yesterday urged the leaders of U.S. Jewry to support Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy and to help promote it in the U.S. Administration and Congress. The Saudi foreign minister appeared with Saudi Ambassador to Washington Bandar Bin-Sultan before the members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in a first-ever appearance by a Saudi minister before U.S. Jews. The minister received a warm and enthusiastic welcome. The meeting was also attended by Robert Lipton, former president of the American Jewish Congress, who is known for his support of the peace process.

Official Israeli sources in New York yesterday reacted with demonstrated restraint. They stressed that Saudi Arabia, which very strictly avoids any contact with Israel, is courting U.S. Jews for purely business reasons. "Saudi Arabia's policy is double-faced, having one policy regarding the Israeli Government and another regarding U.S. Jews," a senior diplomat told HA'ARETZ.

Hamas Leaders Permitted To Leave for Talks Abroad

TA0610083495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has permitted five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders from the territories to travel to an Arab country for consultations with the Hamas leadership abroad on a reconciliation agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and on the possibility of stopping the attacks in the autonomy area.

Sources in the defense establishment told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the permission was granted in the wake of a PA request. The five leaders left for Jordan yesterday. The sources said Hamas is interested in establishing a party which will apparently participate in elections to the autonomy council. The PA has already made it clear to Hamas that in the wake of signing of the interim agreement it will use an iron fist against it if this organization tries to foil the implementation of the agreement.

Alert After Information on 'Terrorist' Infiltrator

TA0610060795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have launched an extensive intelligence effort in an attempt to capture a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist who infiltrated into Israel for the purpose of carrying out a sensational attack. The closure clamped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is expected to last until after the Sukkoth festival.

All security branches are on alert in the wake of this information about the infiltration of a terrorist. It was further decided to step up police and Border Police security in city centers.

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High Tech Industrial Zone Set for China

TA0610083795 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 28 Sep 95

[From the "Economy Survey" released by the Government Press Office Economics Desk on 28 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations between Israel and China on establishing an industrial zone are progressing, Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish and China's Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Wu Yi noted. According to Harish, cooperation on the project between Israel's public and private sectors will be coordinated by the Ministry's Director-General Yosi Snir and Elbit President 'Imanu'el Gill. The zone, intended primarily for establishing high technology-based joint ventures, will be located in Tianjin, close to Beijing. Harish also said, that during the visit of Minister Wu, a set of financial protocols between the two countries, has been initialed, making it easier for Israeli firms to do business in China. As an incentive, the government is establishing a $150 million credit line to provide financial assistance to Israeli concerns conducting business in China.

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Al-Kabariti: Syria Ties 'Basic, Very Important'

JN0510143995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who is now in New York, has described Jordan's relations with Syria as basic and very important. He said the kingdom's ties with Damascus are governed by neighborliness, historic relationship, and Jordan's view that its stance on peace is in support of the Syrian-Israeli track.

The foreign minister said he hoped a joint understanding on all these issues would be reached, pledging that Jordan would do its utmost to promote its relations with Syria. He told the Lebanese AL-SAFIR newspaper that Jordan's relations with Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain are excellent, adding that the country's relationship with Saudi Arabia is good and likely to develop further. He said that the expansion of Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank is considered as a very positive step, particularly if Palestinian elections are going to be held on schedule.

Earlier, Mr. al-Kabariti expressed hope that the Taba accord between the PLO and Israel would be the cornerstone for a new reality on the ground, and would represent a framework for the Palestinian state. The minister said Jordan's relations with other Arab countries are balanced, and that ties with a certain government would not be at the expense of any other brotherly country.

Mr. al-Kabariti, who is attending meetings of the UN General Assembly, had continued contacts at the UN Headquarters with Arab and foreign officials. Featuring high were the Middle East peace process, regional and international issues, as well as topics of joint concern.

Islamic Oppositionist Extradited to Syria

MM0510112095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Government Hands Over Syrian Opposition Leader to Damascus"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — The Jordanian Government has handed over a Syrian Islamic opposition leader to the Syrian Government before the High Court decides on the legality of his extradition.

This is the first time the Jordanian Government has extradited a Syrian oppositionist to the Syrian Government. There are numerous Arab oppositionists in Syria, but the Jordanian leadership normally refrains from handing them over to their countries.

Jordanian security sources have confirmed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Ahmad Julaq, a Syrian Islamist who had lived in Jordan for a long time, was handed over to Syrian authorities a few days ago.

Jordanian authorities arrested Julaq two months ago because of his increased activities against the peace process. The pressure exerted by the Jordanian Islamic tendency delayed the government's decision to extradite Julaq for two months. [passage omitted]

Al-Rawabidah on Peace, Region, Economic Summit

JN0410174195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah has asserted that Jordan had always been with Arab reconciliation and has never been a source of trouble in the region. He said any meeting between Arab countries is for the benefit of nation and is not on the expense of any Arab country.

Mr. al-Rawabidah outlined the Jordanian stands of the peace process and the necessity of achieving a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks in the region to enable their peoples reap the dividends of peace.

Mr. al-Rawabidah also reviewed Jordanian-Arab relations, the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, and the upcoming Amman economic summit.

On the Jordanian stand on the Gulf crisis, Mr. al-Rawabidah said Jordan strived to settle the conflict within the framework of the Arab context. He said Jordan is worried about the plight and bereavement of the Iraqis, who have the right to live in dignity.

He also said the Jordanian-Palestinian prospective confederation is a bilateral issue. He added Jordan supports the right of Palestinians to establish their independent state on their national land and to hoist their flag on their capital, Jerusalem.

Mr. al-Rawabidah said Jordan is working with the international community to prepare the needed investment atmosphere to build the region's economy. On establishing a Middle East market, Mr. al- Rawabidah said at the moment of achieving the just and comprehensive peace in the region, countries will start to cooperate in all fields and governments have to convince their peoples that peace is for the benefit of all. He added key regional and local projects will be presented to the Amman economic summit, particularly those related to the Jordan Rift Valley, transport, and tourism.

His remarks came during a reception of a delegation representing the foreign correspondents committee based in Cairo.

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Leftists, Islamists Condemn Treaties With Israel

JN0510084995 Amman THE STAR in English 05-11 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Report by STAR staff writer Ra'id Al-Bid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leftists and Islamists held an overdue meeting to condemn the implementation of peace treaties between Arab nations and Israel on Friday [6 October].

Over 300 participants to the Popular Conference for the Protection of the Homeland and to Confront Normalization crowded into the Hashd party headquarters in Jabal al-Husayn.

Conferees included representatives of nine political parties, deputies, professional associations and unions.

The conference passed quietly with all participants in full agreement that they must resist all peace treaties with Israel, from the Camp David and Oslo accords to the treaty of Wadi al-'Arabah.

Islamists, Nationalists and Leftists, the three main political trends in the conference shed their differences and agreed to actively pursue a joint anti-normalization campaign. If the campaign is successful, peace treaties with the Jewish state will automatically fail, speakers said.

"We have a lot of points of contention, but we agree on a common agenda to reject the agreements of submission and to confront normalization with the Zionist enemy," said Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, President of the IAF, and the head of the preparatory committee.

"These agreements are non-binding to our people, and we are demanding their abrogation."

The conference was successful because it created consolidation between different ideological groups, said Salim al-Nahas, head of the Hashd party, and the administrative secretary of the committee.

"It is the first time in the Arab world that different ideological trends have linked arms for one goal," she said. "I think this experience must be adopted by the rest of the political movements in the Arab world."

Although the various parties agreed to adhere to a final platform, they were hesitant in giving up their ideologies regarding the peace process. Islamists and leftists differed on the charter's terminology.

Dr. al-Farhan, an Islamist, said the term "just and comprehensive peace" was cancelled from the final political platform "because we believe that here can be no peace as long as there is Zionist occupation of Palestine."

Mr. 'Azmi al-Khawaja, general secretary of the leftist Popular Democratic Unity Party, commented on the Islamic point of view. "This issue has not been discussed in the conference because every party has its own policies concerning peace," he said.

By the end of the meeting, 16 resolutions were adopted. Follow- up meetings will be held to elect an executive committee to implement resolutions over the next three months.

The charter called for an Arab boycott of all economic, social and political relations with Israel.

It also reconfirmed the right of the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to return to their homeland, and called for the lifting of United Nations' sanctions against Iraq, Libya and Sudan.

Participants also condemned Libya's expulsion of Palestinians over the past three weeks.

The meeting was originally planned in May, but government called a ban five hours before it convened. Organizers were accused of insulting the government and inciting anti-national sentiment.

Conference officials managed to skirt the ban by holding Friday's meeting in the private headquarters of the Hashd Party, rather than in a public forum.

'Unacceptable' Stance of Jewish Hardliners Viewed

JN0510094695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial: "No Room for Settlers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's defiant mood against American Jews opposed to his peace moves with the Palestinian side did not come out from a vacuum. It is well- known that Israeli hardliners and extremists have been busy recruiting supporters from the diaspora, especially in the U.S., who have succeeded to win over some U.S. congressmen in their efforts to torpedo the Oslo I and II accords with the PLO on one pretext or another.

On the one hand Rabin has some U.S. rabbis whom he likened to Iran's "ayatollahs" after they called on Israeli soldiers to refuse orders to evacuate army bases in the West Bank; and, on the other hand, he has American "fringe groups" which have been acting on instructions from the anti-Rabin groups in Israel to undermine the peace agreements with the Palestinians. These alliances between the far right factions in the Israeli body politic and like-minded North American Jews spell trouble not only for the Labour government but also for the entire peace process.

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In essence what the anti-peace activists want is to see Israel cling to every inch of the West Bank and make it de facto, an Israeli territory. There is a certain Jewish group whom Rabin has rightly labelled as "loath-some," which is busy lobbying in Washington against giving aid or grants to the cash-strapped Palestinian self-rule authority. It strikes us as absurd to refuse support for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) at a time when much is expected from it to contain violence and reverse the tide of despair among Palestinians. Surely the extremists and the fundamentalists within the Israeli and Jewish ranks know that the stability, security and prosperity of the areas under Palestinian control would be translated into greater security, stability and prosperity for the Israeli people themselves at the end of the day. And that is precisely why they are opposed to giving them up and losing themselves and ideology in the process.

The settlers must be served with notice that we in Jordan are solidly behind the peace accords between Israel and the PNA. This easily explains why His Majesty King Husayn went to Washington to sign and witness the latest peace agreement for expanding Palestinian autonomy. The hundred or so Jewish settlers who illegally crossed the border Monday to express their opposition to the Taba agreement were not about to find comfort in Jordan, because what they stood for was unacceptable to the people and government of this country and to its best interests.

U.S. Ambassador States Stand on Confederation

JN0510115995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—U.S. Ambassador in Amman Wesley Egan has denied reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton has called for the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, and that what was published in this respect is groundless.

Egan said to several chief editors and writers yesterday that the United States has no official stand on the question of a confederation which is, first and foremost, the affair of those concerned.

The ambassador added that President Clinton sent letters to creditor countries urging them to cancel Jordan's debts.

He said that the United States will soon call for the formation of a four-way committee of Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and the United States to tackle domestic and other issues.

Ambassador's Statements Noted

JN0510122295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 16

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "What Did the U.S. Ambassador Tell Us?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unlike his predecessor, U.S. Ambassador in Amman Egan is active and energetic. During one year and a half of his assignment, he has not provoked the Jordanians in any way. In fact, he approached them as someone who supports Jordan and understands its concerns.

Ambassador Egan invited us over to lunch yesterday. We were six Jordanian journalists and writers, including four editors in chief. We listened to the ambassador's personal and official views toward current issues. He also answered our political and financial questions.

Since I have a weak memory, I am not sure I can tell which statements represent the official views of the U.S. Administration and which represent an off-the-record personal view.

I am certain that the ambassador invited us for lunch because he had a message to convey through us to the Jordanian people, and not to confide in us, especially since he knows that our job is to make things known to the public rather than to conceal them.

The following is a summary of the main points in the ambassador's statements. Some of what he said could make headlines.

— Within a week or two, the United States will call for the formation of a quadrilateral committee comprising Jordan, Palestine, Israel and the United States to address economic and other issues.

— It is not true that President Clinton called for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians. Such reports are baseless.

— There is no official U.S. position on the confederation plan. This is up to the concerned parties. The United States will not interfere in this issue unless all the parties ask for its help.

— President Clinton is writing letters to the heads of Jordan's creditor nations saying that the United States has made good on its promise and written off Jordan's debts and urging them to follow suit.

— U.S. aid to Jordan for the current fiscal year totaled around $375 million, including debt cancellation, military aid, and financing projects.

— There is a sum of $80 million earmarked for Jordan from previous budgets, which Jordan has not yet used.

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This sum will be canceled if official Jordanian quarters do not do something quickly to use the money.

— If real progress takes place in the implementation of the self-rule expansion agreement and on the Syrian-Israeli track, then the upcoming elections in the United States and Israel will not hamper the peace process.

Author of Iraqi Bribery Article Freed on Bail

JN0610092095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The competent court yesterday issued an order to release Salamah Ni'mat on bail set at 5,000 Jordanian dinars. Ni'mat was detained last Tuesday [3 October] for writing an article in the 20 September issue of the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH claiming that 42 businessmen, journalists, former and current officials, as well as a minister working in the current administration had received money from Iraq.

Paper Ridicules al-Qadhdhafi's Remarks at Border

JN0510171795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Oct 95 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "A Successful Libyan Plan To Liberate the Land of Palestine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's scene on the Libyan-Egyptian border induced pain mixed with anger, sadness, and disappointment. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi addressed crowds of Palestinians expelled from the Jamahiriyah. He claimed that these Palestinians, whose subsistence is at stake, are now willingly returning to Palestine.

It seems that Col. al-Qadhdhafi's plan to liberate Palestine only needs stockpiling Palestinians on the Arab-Israeli borders while carrying olive branches — and not arms as al-Qadhdhafi said — so the long conflict that lasted for decades will be resolved in the simplest way.

We are aware that the Libyan ruler's treatment of such an issue with all this disregard and recklessness only flagrantly expresses Col. al-Qadhdhafi's sense of his deep and severe crisis with the western states. All that he is doing aims at drawing the world's attention to the continued sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

The ordeal of thousands of men, women, and children expelled from Libya only lacked Col. al-Qadhdhafi's sarcastic remarks about the fate of the Palestine question. He reminded these miserable people that Palestine has thus far not been liberated, that they are still refugees, and that through this revolutionary move he will prevent the implementation of the Zionist scheme which seeks to keep Palestine for the Israelis.

Thus, the leader of the Great Jamahiriyah has not responded to the appeals of the Arab League, international organizations, and other parties. It seems he went to the Libyan-Egyptian border yesterday to enjoy the scene he has created and to once again confirm to us that the Palestine question has thus far not been resolved despite the Oslo, Taba, and Cairo agreements, and that, consequently, those homeless Palestinians are the only ones to blame.

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Al-Hirawi Cables al-Asad on Anniversary

NC0410172095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks must remain parallel and complementary to each other for the sake of liberating the occupied territories and ensuring that a just, comprehensive, rightful, and dignified peace is achieved.

Al-Hirawi proclaimed this position in a cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad congratulating him on the 22d anniversary of the triumph of Arab resolve in the October war.

Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, Minister of State Fayiz Shukr, and several other officials sent similar cables to the Syrian president.

Security Teams Urged To Find Col. al-Maqdah

NC0410114795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to our radio, Beirut Investigating Judge 'Abdallah al-Bitar has said that the security agencies have been instructed to launch an investigation to determine the whereabouts of Colonel Munir al-Maqdah and bring him for interrogation concerning the threat he made to kill Minister Nicola Fattush and for slandering Minister Michel al-Murr. If his whereabouts are not determined, al-Maqdah's identity must be accurately verified, al-Bitar said.

Al-Bitar pointed out that he requested that the security agencies carry out these instructions as soon as possible.

Hizballah Radio: 6 Killed, Wounded by 'Resistance'

NC0410070395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Martyr Bilal al-Darnuh group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive charge under a Zionist foot patrol composed of 13 members along the al-Dabshah-al-Tuhrah road at 0500 this morning. Reports confirm that six patrol members were killed or wounded.

'Resistance' Claims Attacks on SLA

NC0510175095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement saying it carried out two military operations along the al-Suwayda' road this afternoon. The first targeted a mechanized vehicle belonging to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the second targeted an SLA troop carrier.

According to the statement the fire support unit of the Islamic Resistance also attacked the al-Suwayda' position with rockets.

Meanwhile, the outskirts of Habbush and Kafr Rumman, the Hasbbush River basin, and al-Wadi al-Akhdar came under concentrated fire from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah and 'Ali al-Tahir.

Israeli Shelling Reported; 'Resistance' Attack Viewed

NC0610073595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The southern areas came under recent Zionist attack. Yesterday evening, the outskirts of Arnun and Mazra'at al-Hamra' came under 155-mm shelling from the enemy post in al-Zaffatah. Simultaneously, the 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Burj posts fired several 60-mm and 81-mm artillery shells at the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit. At midnight, the shelling of Wadi al-Saluqi stretched to the fringes of Majdal Silm and Qabrikha towns. The source of shelling was pinpointed as the enemy post in (Mash'arun), which used 120-mm shells in the bombardment.

At dawn, the Sujud reservoirs on the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills came under 120-mm shelling from the Sujud position. The overnight Zionist shelling coincided with large-caliber machine-gun fire on several areas, namely Kafr Tibnit, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and the Sujud reservoirs from the opposing positions.

The Islamic resistance yesterday burned one Lahdist [South Lebanese Army, SLA] armored personnel carrier and damaged another. The two vehicles' occupants were killed or wounded in two separate attacks one hour apart on the road leading to al-Suwayda'. The fire support unit targeted that position with the appropriate weapons after it shelled many areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The agents' sources acknowledged the two operations and security reports from Marj 'Uyun confirmed that casualties occurred in the attacks. Security sources said the two operations were a reprisal for the threats against agent 'Aql Hashim, who claimed he would retaliate, for the Islamic resistance attacks. With these two operations the Islamic resistance proved its ability to track down the agents who are experiencing a declining situation and differences between their leadership. [passage omitted]

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'Text' of al-Shar' Speech at UN General Assembly

JN0510211095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
4 Oct 95 pp 1, 11

["Text" of speech by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the UN General Assembly's 50th session in New York on 3 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President: At the beginning of my speech, I would like to congratulate you and your friendly country, Portugal, on your election as president of the General Assembly. We are confident that your experience, wisdom, and good management will help ensure the success of this session. We assure you that the Syrian delegation will cooperate with you to realize the sought goals. I also thank your predecessor Mr. 'Ammar 'Isa for his diligent efforts during his presidency of the previous session.

On this occasion, we would like to express our appreciation to the UN secretary general for his efforts to bolster the stature and role of the UN and his painstaking efforts to draw world attention to the major issues at this stage.

Mr. President: The present General Assembly session has a great significance in the history of the United Nations because it coincides with the 50th anniversary of establishing this world organization, which remains, despite any criticism, an organization unmatched in the history of international relations. It is a house that brings together representatives of various countries, friends and enemies and foes and allies, on the basis of commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Foremost of these purposes and principles are maintenance of world peace and security, respect for basic rights of man and countries, small and big alike, emphasis of equality in these rights, non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, and confrontation of aggression in accordance with the principles of justice and international law.

We believe the problem of the UN does not lie in the purposes and principles of the Charter, but rather in the mechanism of decision-making in it and in the selectivity in implementing these resolutions. The serious financial straits from which the UN suffers reflects, in fact, nothing more than a political crisis which is mainly about the UN identity and its role in the post-Cold War era.

The question that should be raised here is: Does this organization actually express the aspirations of the peoples of its member states as stipulated in the opening phrase of its Charter which reads: We the peoples of the United Nations? Is it not both odd and surprising to hear that these countries which have the largest population or area complain — despite that they are permanent UN members — about interference in their internal affairs?

In light of this, will it be possible to introduce significant democratic reforms to the structure of the UN — reforms that will be accepted by and satisfactory to the member states, be they small or big, rich or poor, or located in the North or South? Or is it that the democracy of majority according to which national decisions are made is not appropriate for decision-making inside the United Nations and in international relations?

At any rate, we are not living in an ideal world. If we aspire to have such a world, then we are confident that constructive international dialogue and cooperation must be launched. Such dialogue should ensure the introduction of reforms in form and substance — reforms that would meet the aspirations of member states and address the problems and needs of developing countries, foremost of which is easing the burden of their indebtedness, pooling investments there, giving their goods access to markets, and lifting any restrictions on the transfer of modern and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to them. Above all, these countries should be dealt with, in terms of political, humanitarian, and cultural issues, through dialogue that is based on mutual respect and non-interference in domestic affairs. This is the appropriate and safest way to establish international cooperation in a human manner — cooperation that would serve the interests of all and help us reach a more secure, stable, and prosperous world.

Mr. President: International developments the world has witnessed since the beginning of the 1990's cannot, despite their enormous results and strong repercussions, change the basic principles and values which man struggled to attain and adhere to since the dawn of history. Right cannot turn into wrong overnight. Equality cannot turn into hegemony, racism cannot become a virtue, and the occupation of lands through force cannot have any legitimacy.

We are living in an area that is the cradle of the three divine religions and human civilizations. We have deep roots in this region. We are reading, hearing, and witnessing how Israel is trying to falsify history and the geography of this region and the accomplishments of its people. We also see how it tries to mislead public opinion and convince it that its democracy and laws determine the fate of the occupied Arab lands and not the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions, which consider Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and the application of its laws on the Golan as null and void. These resolutions also call

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for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands to accomplish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Israel's failure to abide by UN resolutions despite the negotiations that have been under way for four years is a challenge for Arabs as well as for the entire international community, particularly the Security Council and its relevant resolutions.

The recent developments in the peace process have proved that Israel's rulers do not seek a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace that would put an end to conflict, occupation, and settlement activity and ensure security and stability for all. They focused most of their attention on grabbing signatures from their interlocutors on hundreds of pages and maps that harm the Palestinian people after all the dear sacrifices they have offered. This puts the Palestinian people on an endless track of loss and agony instead of putting them on a clear road of liberation and independence.

These agreements that will lead to an endless series of negotiations and agreements will not, we believe, withstand the test of the final agreement because each agreement carries the seeds of tension and conflict.

Since the Oslo agreement was signed, Syria clarified, from this podium, that it does not support these agreements and does not seek to cripple them. As we reiterate this position today, we say that using these agreements to violate Syria's national and pan-Arab interests and rights will prompt us to reconsider this position.

The U.S. initiative, on the basis of which the Madrid Conference was held, stressed that its goal is the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. In its assurances to Syria, the United States said it does not support Israel's annexation of a single inch of the Golan lands occupied in 1967.

According to these foundations, Syria opened the door for peace at the Madrid Conference. It will continue to adhere to these bases which essentially mean a constant U.S. commitment to Syria's basic rights and interests. The strength of this U.S. commitment is not affected by some Arab parties' violation of the Madrid formula, about which the U.S. sponsor should care most.

Contrary to Israel's allegations, the Madrid formula and the U.S. initiative did not provide for secret talks and did not stipulate any specifications on the level of negotiators. Had this not been the case, it would not have been necessary at all to hold the Madrid Conference.

Syria and the Arab countries expect the United States, in its capacity as the sponsor of the peace process, to fulfill its obligations to Syria and Lebanon and to work on removing the obstacles which Israel continues to place along the road to a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This just and comprehensive peace should lead to Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Syria reiterates its commitment to peace according to the bases from which the peace process was launched and not according to other foundations or formulas which only seek to appease Israel's haughtiness and consecrate its hegemony without accomplishing the aspirations of the people of the region for dignity, security, and stability.

Israel can deceive some people some of the time, but it cannot deceive everyone all of the time. Negotiations between Syria and Israel during the past four years have disclosed that Israel wants negotiations only for the purpose of procrastination and shirking the requirements of peace. It also seeks to use these negotiations to impose its conditions which contradict the letter and spirit of relevant Security Council resolutions. This is the real reason for the stumbling of negotiations on the Syrian track.

At any rate, false peace will have no access to a single Syrian house despite all the Israeli challenges and obstacles. The Syrian people know very well that Arabs, Muslims, and all people that have faith in justice and peace firmly support Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad in the battle for a just and comprehensive peace — the real peace which the people will embrace with dignity.

Mr. President: Armed conflicts and devastating wars are still raging throughout various areas of the world, inflicting heavy human and material losses on the peoples of these countries. These wars and conflicts started to cast a dim shadow on regional and world peace and security.

The unspeakable plight of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina invites the international community to intensify efforts to bring about a just settlement that would preserve the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and ensure security and stability for the Balkan region.

Syria reiterates its support for the unity of Iraq's territory and people. It rejects any attempts to partition Iraq and interfere in its internal affairs. It believes that the Iraqi Government's speedy implementation of the rest of the Security Council resolutions and the settlement of the Kuwaiti POW's issue will help lift

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the embargo and alleviate the suffering of the sisterly people of Iraq.

Syria also urges a positive response to the Arab League's initiative on the Lockerbie crisis. This initiative would settle this crisis and put an end to the embargo against sisterly Libya.

Syria hopes the crisis between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran over the three islands will be settled peacefully through direct dialogue and in a manner that will maintain cooperation and good neighborliness, guarantee rights, and ensure respect for the sovereignty and unity of the countries of the region.

Syria calls on all warring parties in Somalia to stop fighting and overcome differences to accomplish national reconciliation which is indispensable for the restoration of security and stability in this country. It also calls for pooling efforts to reconstruct this country and to restore its Arab and international role.

Mr. President: Syria had the honor of taking part in establishing our international organization, the 50th anniversary of which we are celebrating. Throughout history, other organizations disappeared because they did not keep pace with the peoples' aspirations. However, the fact that our organization persisted over the past five decades confirms the noble goals and purposes of its charter.

Despite the conflicts and challenges the world of today is witnessing, we are optimistic about the future. History cannot go backwards. Each stage of evolution and change is, in the final analysis, better than the previous stages. It is our hope that wars which have broken out in many areas in the world should recede gradually and then disappear. Peace which does not come today will come tomorrow. This is what we will seek to achieve. We are looking forward to a life which is better and more just and humane — a life that is based on cooperation among our united nations in all the political, economic, and cultural fields in the interest of man everywhere. Let us hope that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations will be a luminous turning point in the history of mankind.

Al-Shar' Makes 'Working Visit' to Washington

JN0510180795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 5 Oct (SANA) — At the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today began a two-day working visit to Washington to hold talks with the U.S. secretary of state and other U.S. officials on ways to end the current stalemate in the peace process. They also discussed relations between Syria and the United States, as well as the situation in the region.

Holds Talks With Christopher

JN0510202195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington — Talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, began at the U.S. State Department this evening.

The VOA, which broadcast the news, said that the meeting was aimed at reviving the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track. [passage omitted]

Comments on Christopher Talks

JN0510210195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Report by Hisham Milhim in Washington; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian-U.S. efforts to resume Syrian-Israeli negotiations are still continuing. However, these efforts have not thus far ended the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track, as was shown by the preliminary signs following the lengthy meeting held between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, in Washington Thursday afternoon.

The Americans focused on the need for military experts to return to Washington to resume negotiations on the security arrangements. The Syrians, however, focused on the need to safeguard the Syrian- Israeli understanding on security principles, which was reached in June. Al-Shar' believes that Israel is not committed to this understanding.

Within this context, al-Shar' reiterated Damascus' absolute rejection of any Israeli military presence in the Golan. He pointed to the presence of early warning systems linked to satellites as an alternative.

He also reiterated Syria's insistence that a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region will only be achieved after comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borders and also after Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Al-Shar' accused Israel of obstructing the negotiations which have not thus far yielded any results since the Madrid conference, as he put it.

Regarding a possible visit by Secretary Christopher to Damascus in the near future, al-Shar' said: This visit is being studied now. However, Nicholas Burns,

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spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, said Secretary Christopher does not intend to visit the region before the Amman Economic Conference, which will open late this month.

U.S. and Syrian sources expect Christopher to visit Damascus early next month following the Amman Economic Conference.

Says U.S. Talks 'Good, Constructive'

JN0610072595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — The Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the U.S side, led by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, held a round of official talks at the U.S. State Department yesterday. The talks were attended by Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington; Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and members of the two delegations. The U.S. side included Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process; Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs; and Mark Parris, White House adviser on Middle East affairs.

The talks addressed the peace process and developments in the region. It was agreed to continue contacts to find the best ways to break the stalemate in the peace process.

After the talks, al-Shar' spoke to reporters who gathered at the U.S. State Department. Answering a question on the atmosphere of the talks, al-Shar' said: The talks were good and constructive. We covered the peace process, Middle East developments, and bilateral matters.

Answering a question on the resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks, al-Shar' said: Contacts will continue with the U.S. side to find the best ways to resume the negotiations between Syria and Israel. Al-Shar' asserted that Syria's position is clear, saying that there will be no just and comprehensive peace in the region without a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon. Al-Shar' said the set of understandings on the purposes and principles of security arrangements, which was reached last June, must be respected.

Al-Shar' said Syria is committed to a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the principles on which the peace process was launched in Madrid.

On Israel's demand that a ground station be set up on the Golan after its withdrawal, al-Shar' said: Syria rejects the presence of any early-warning ground stations on the Golan. This contradicts the understanding reached on the purposes and principles of the security arrangements. In addition, there is no need for a ground station. The alternative to this is the space warning system.

On the continuation of the U.S. role as a broker to have the talks between Syria and Israel resume, al-Shar' answered: The United States has pledged to be an honest and active broker. He recalled that the peace process was launched on a U.S. initiative. The Madrid conference was held on the basis of this initiative. Therefore, it is natural that the United States will not abandon its commitment and the guarantees it provided to Syria.

Al-Shar' added that Secretary Christopher and the U.S. peace team are convinced of the importance of resuming the talks between Syria and Israel and of the importance of the Syrian track.

Answering a question on a possible visit to the region by Secretary Christopher to resume the talks, al-Shar' said: Secretary Christopher's visit is still under discussion, and it is up to the U.S. side to decide on this visit.

Answering a question on the stumbling negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' said: Syria was not the party that halted the negotiations. On the contrary, Israel has proven over the past four years that it is not serious about making any progress on the Syrian track. Al-Shar' also reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process, blaming Israel for prolonging the negotiations without achieving any tangible results. Israel, in fact, tried to dictate its conditions and concepts, and this is unacceptable for Syria, he said.

Replying to another question on the domestic pressures from which Rabin is suffering, al-Shar' said: We must remember that the peace process is based on the principles of international law and the UN resolutions, and not on Israeli law and Knesset decisions.

Al-Shar' began yesterday a two-day visit to Washington in response to an invitation by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. During the visit, al-Shar' will hold talks with the U.S. secretary and other U.S. officials on ways to break the deadlock in the peace process. Al-Shar' will also discuss Syrian- U.S. relations and the situation in the region.

Ministers Leave To Attend IMF, World Bank Meetings

JN0510165695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 5 Oct (SANA)—Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of financial affairs; Bisharah Kabbarah, governor of the Central Bank of Syria; and 'Adnan al-Sati, assistant

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to the minister of financial affairs, left Damascus for Washington this morning to attend meetings of the IMF and the World Bank scheduled to be held in the U.S. capital next week.

Group for Oil Prospecting Formed With Lebanon

JN0510201595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus (SANA) — The Syrian-Lebanese committee for cooperation in the area of oil and gas prospecting held a meeting yesterday in the presence of Nasir al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council. The committee formed a technical group to begin work in the area of oil and gas prospecting as a another step on the path of integration between the two countries. The committee decided to charge a joint Syrian-Lebanese technical group with the task of compiling all available data in the Lebanese regions and studying, analyzing, and assessing this data with the aim of linking Syrian and Lebanese regions on the basis of data obtained from both sides.

The committee held its meeting at the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council headquarters, where it was welcomed by Secretary General Nasri al-Khuri. He outlined the scope of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all areas and expressed the hope that both sides would achieve the integration cherished by both peoples.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Muhammad Khaddur, general manager of the Syrian Oil Company; and the company's director of planning and the director for gas development. It was attended on the Lebanese side by Jubran Habib, an expert on oil affairs; the head of the Technical Affairs Department in the Lebanese Oil Ministry; and several competent officials.

Israel's 'Procrastination' on Peace Assailed

JN0510153895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Nobody expected Israel to tell the truth in the speech its foreign minister delivered before the UN General Assembly, which is now holding a session to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. The occasion was so significant that it allowed such an expectation. In his speech, the Israeli minister, however, added to Israel's negative record on Middle East peace by making no reference to the core of the issue and to the UN Security Council's resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Moreover, he tried to drown the issue by using sweet words about poverty, prosperity, hatred, technology, education, and human values. These words lack any meaning in the absence of just peace and Israel's total withdrawal.

The Israeli minister also described Israel's control of 80 percent of the occupied Palestinian territories, water, and economy as a moral decision not to dominate another nation. It is easy, of course, to expose Israel's procrastination by asking it: What will become of the territories of the Palestinian people, which Peres calls the other nation, if Israel does not want to dominate that nation, as the Israeli minister claims in his speech.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told the truth about these Israeli procrastinations in the peace process. He said that Israel can deceive some people some of the time, but not all people all of the time. In his speech, al-Shar' reiterated Syria's position and its efforts to achieve a just peace. This has been Syria's firm position not only since the beginning of the peace process four years ago, but also since the October war of liberation, whose 22d anniversary will be marked tomorrow by Syria and the Arab nation.

President Hafiz al-Asad, who led that glorious war, said at the very beginning of that war: We do not want killing and destruction, but we are protecting ourselves from killing and destruction; we have never been aggressors, but we are protecting ourselves from aggression; and we do not want death for anybody, but we are protecting our people from death. His excellency also said: We are peace advocates, and we are seeking peace for our people and for all the nations of the world, and we are now defending ourselves to live in peace.

Israel is procrastinating by trying to portray the agreements that have shackled the Palestinian people as a moral decision not to dominate another nation. Therefore, Israel is trying to spread these agreements to the other tracks, namely, the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Syria's position is clear and categorical. Syria is not trying to hamper these agreements, but any attempt to use them to harm its national and pan-Arab interests and rights will make Syria reconsider this position.

The positions of the parties involved in the peace process are very clear. Syria maintains a firm position on Arab rights, which were emphasized by the resolutions of the international community. The Israeli position is also clear in terms of procrastination, if we can use this expression. It avoids the implementation of the resolutions of the international community. The U.S. initiative is also clear in terms of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace and in terms of U.S. guarantees to Syria and U.S.

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objection to Israel's attempt to annex any inch of Golan territories, which were occupied in 1967. These bases mean a perpetual U.S. commitment to Syria's rights and basic interests.

Such a clarity of positions makes Syria expect the international community and its influential forces, particularly the U.S. sponsor of the peace process, to intensify their efforts to make Israel accept just peace based on total Israeli withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines. False peace, however, will not find its way to any Syrian house because Syria will not abandon its national moral and militant values. The Syrian citizens know well that the Arabs, the Muslims, and all nations believing in justice and peace respectfully and firmly support Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad in the true battle of peace—just and comprehensive peace.

Column Argues Against Projects With Israel

JN0510182895 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p 8

["People's Talk" column by Bassam Ja'arah: "Wheat Prices and the Middle East Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tense confrontation between the United States and Japan over car markets has cleared the stage temporarily for a different confrontation; this time, between the United States and Europe over another product — namely, wheat. The confrontation has led to a new price spiral in the world market, because Europe has been compelled to stop selling subsidized wheat.

Meanwhile, the importing countries, which are already viewing the diminishing world wheat reserves with concern, have been surprised by the sudden rise in wheat prices, because they thought that these prices would remain stable at least until the application of the GATT.

Naturally, what has taken place is bound to inflate the wheat bills and cause the suspension of essential economic projects in the importer developing countries, since their funds will have to be rechanneled to purchase wheat.

So, without going any further, we say that the economies of most Arab states will be affected one way or another by the hike in world wheat prices. This makes us wonder anew about the present and future of joint Arab action in view of the other action which is taking place in more than one arena to block the way to any joint Arab action. We will not precede events by talking about the upcoming Amman economic summit, but we would like to state clearly that the Casablanca conference, and now the Amman conference, and before that the economic seminars and the projects proposed, such as the establishment of a development bank, indicate a course of action which is bound to greatly weaken the Arab economic house. This course of action will open a crack allowing Israel to penetrate the Arab economic world under the present contradictions and capabilities, which have not yet forged an Arab political will which can reorganize and unify the individual Arab states into one harmonious, cooperative bloc with greater productive capability and greater benefits for the individual and the group. Therefore, before this alien body enters the Arab body politically, economically, and socially, it would be wise strategically and tactically to put the Arab economic house in order, at least on the level of the major, general policies so that we will be able to eat our own bread and not have to beg for it in the world markets.

Talas' Editorial Views Oct War Anniversary

JN0510125195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 5 Oct (SANA)—In an editorial by Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH hails the 22d anniversary of the October 1973 war of liberation, recalling some milestones in this great event.

Talas said: Leader al-Asad had realized then that war for Iraq and Jordan was out of the question, and that there was much ado about nothing. Therefore, he headed toward Egypt, with which he agreed on everything, even the zero hour.

He added: Leader al-Asad had planned and worked to make the October war the beginning of a great epic in the Arab-Zionist conflict. However, for our partner on the other side, Anwar [al-Sadat], who was manipulated by dear Henry Kissinger, it was just a tactical war. Therefore, President al-Asad launched a comprehensive war of attrition against the Israeli troops, a war that only ended with the signing of the disengagement agreement in the spring of 1974.

Lt. Gen. Talas stressed that the October war made the enemy and the forces behind it realize the importance of Arab solidarity and the effect of the pan-Arab character of the battle when Arab resources and capabilities are pooled in the right direction. Thus, they immediately made plans to break up Arab ranks and take on each Arab country individually. The purpose of that was to peddle a losing deal. Only leader al-Asad was aware of this game from the outset. Therefore, he did not budge from his stance demanding a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights and ensures everybody's interests.

Lt. Gen. Talas said: Invisible hands recently smuggled Husayn Kamil to Jordan in preparation for creating a

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new Trojan horse to penetrate the Gulf Arab region. Subsequently, Western media created an uproar in reaction to this fabricated incident. But with one word from leader President Hafiz al-Asad during a news conference in Cairo, the magician's spell was broken. Now, no one even cares to mention this subject.

The defense minister recalled a story which he was reminded of by Yitzhaq Rabin's words to 'Arafat after the signing of the farcical agreement. Rabin told 'Arafat: "I have begun to believe, Chairman 'Arafat, that you might be a Jew." In 1966, 'Arafat assassinated martyr Captain Yusuf 'Arrabi, who was a Palestinian officer in the Syrian Army. The late officer used to say: "I swear by my honor that Yasir 'Arafat is a Jew. Days will prove that to you." Now, here is Rabin acknowledging this fact 29 years after it was said.

At the conclusion of the editorial, Lt. Gen. Talas greeted President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: History will record that you are the only man who embodies our traits and pride. This is reminiscent of the lofty days of the Arab prophet and the caliphs who created our Arab nation's glory.

Higher Investment Council Approves 24 New Projects

JN0510194395 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Investment Council approved during its eighth session the licensing of 24 new projects in the transportation, industrial, and agricultural sectors. The council approved 11 projects in the transportation sector and a project for cow breeding at a cost of 459 million Syrian pounds. It also approved two new metal projects: the first for the production of iron sections at a cost of 126.2 million pounds with a production capacity of 48,600 tonnes, and the second for the production of steel rods at a cost of 458 million pounds with a production capacity of 80,000 tonnes of steel.

The council also approved a project for liquid oxygen at a cost of 22.9 million pounds, a project for the production of natural juices at a cost of 62.4 million pounds, a project for cold storage at a cost of 52.2 million, and a project for electric bulbs at a cost of 27.2 million pounds with a production capacity of 9 million bulbs. The council also approved the establishment of a factory for the production and printing of textiles at a cost of 118.8 million pounds with a potential production capacity of 2 million pieces. It also approved the establishment of a factory for the production of children's milk.

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Afghanistan

Official Addresses UN on Pakistani 'Interference'

LD0510151295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Afghanistan's [deputy] foreign minister has accused some foreign countries of direct military interference in his country's internal affairs. Mr. 'Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, in yesterday afternoon's session of the UN General Assembly in New York, in a speech said: The Pakistani government gives financial and military aid to the opponents of the Afghan government. Mr. Ghafurzai added the aggression and interference in Afghanistan is entering the new phase and the opponents are preparing to attack Kabul with the foreign support they are receiving.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry official called on the UN and the Security Council to prevent further foreign aggression on Afghanistan. 'Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, seriously criticizing the Taleban group, called them mercenaries affiliated to the world imperialism, saying the Taleban group prevent the presence of women in political, social and economic scenes in the region under their control.

Rabbani Welcomes Aid From UN, Other Countries

LD0510192195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met Peter Hansen, UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, at the Golkhana Palace of the presidency.

When passing this report to BAKHTAR, the presidency's press office said that Hansen spoke about the wishes of the United Nations regarding the organization and intensification of assistance to the people of Afghanistan by various UN agencies and international charity organizations. He also spoke about the readiness of international society to assist the people of Afghanistan. He added: The United Nation's, as before, will be ready to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction and to rebuild the destruction caused by the fighting.

In recalling past assistance by the United Nations and international charity organizations to the people of Afghanistan, Rabbani then said: We expect the United Nations and the international aid organizations to always remember the people and the war-stricken country of Afghanistan, as neutral foundations and deliverers of humanitarian assistance.

The United Nations, which enjoys particular credibility at international level, can and must be able to encourage donor countries to increase their financial, economic, and cultural assistance to Afghanistan. The Afghan Government, despite difficulties stemming from the fighting, is ready to assist international projects and the personnel of international agencies in their humanitarian activities.

UN Official Meets With Lafra'i, Promises Help

LD0510210195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Peter Hansen, UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

At this meeting Lafra'i briefed the UN delegation about the country's current situation and added: The strategy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] is based on a peace-seeking policy and it has been, and will be, working on this path. On the basis of this principle, the ISA recently asked for the intensification and acceleration of the UN peace delegation to stop the fighting immediately and to restore nationwide peace in the country.

Lafra'i added: The situation in Kabul is completely normal and the United Nations must transfer all its offices and agencies to Kabul and re-start its activities.

Lafra'i referred to the major difficulties facing Afghanistan regarding the existence of millions of mines and unexploded weapons and said: As the collection of mines at the time of reconstruction is especially important, therefore, the United Nations must play a more active role in the task of clearing and removing the mines.

Hansen then expressed UN readiness for the revival and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Today, Hansen met Dr. Mahdi, deputy minister of planning. At this meeting talks were held on the need for UN humanitarian assistance for the country's revival and the role of the United Nations in this regard. [passage omitted]

According to another report, Hansen in his press conference at Kabul Airport regarding said: The purpose of the UN delegation's visit was to make preparation for calling on international society to extend humanitarian assistance to the misery-stricken people of Afghanistan during the coming year.

When meeting the government authorities and organizations we have assessed the urgent needs in Afghanistan which the international community should be called on

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to meet. In reply to a question by the BAKHTAR correspondent regarding the transfer to Kabul of the UN and international organizations' offices, he said: The UN office in Kabul is open and the United Nations in its full capacity is working in Kabul. We hope the UN presence in Kabul is increased further when the situation improves.

The UN delegation left Kabul this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Articles View National Problems, Analyze Causes

Accusations Against Mujahedin Viewed

95LH0231A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jul 95 pp 8-9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Afandi, Sudanese writer and academician]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Afghan capital was about to fall to the mujahedin in February 1989 after 10 years of jihad, hundreds of thousands of martyrs, and millions of refugees, I wrote a comment at the time on the event, likening it to the great battles of Islam: Hittin, 'Ayn Jalut, the conquest of Byzantium, and other glorious battles.

There is no doubt that Muslims east and west shared pride and glory in the victory of Islam's nearly unarmed mujahedin against one of the world's two superpowers. It was a victory matched in old and modern history only by the victory of the people of al-Saffah and their supporters against the Sassanidae Empire in al-Qadisiyah.

Six years after the historic victory, pride has turned into bitterness among many who care for Islam and into gloating and disdain among enemies. The victory has turned into a catastrophe and mujahedin leaders have become a curse to themselves and to their kinsmen with their disunity, their internecine war, and the atrocities and injustices they have committed. This condition has sowed doubt in many hearts about the Afghan jihad and its principles. It has also revived accusations that had seen nothing other than a U.S. plot in what happened in Afghanistan—a plot which exploited tribal bands to settle U.S. accounts with the Soviet Union under the guise of jihad.

These accusations, which are not innocent of prejudice or of the disappointment generated by fighting among brothers, cannot conceal from us the great accomplishment the Afghan jihad has achieved and the great lesson this accomplishment provides for the nation's present and future. First, the Afghan mujahedin have never declared themselves to be the Islamic nation's imams or the model to be emulated by the nation. The goal they set for themselves never exceeded the liberation of their country from the control of the communist tyrant who threatened the freedom and faith of the country's people. We must record here for history that most observers, including the United States, did not give these mujahedin more than 1/100 chance of success. The west recalled the experiments of other countries, led by Hungary and Czechoslovakia, that had fallen within the Soviet sphere of influence. Those experiments, supported by the west, failed to achieve liberation. Prior to that, the United States had unleashed its entire power to confront the communist tide in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Cuba but reaped nothing other than disappointment. An even closer example is the outcome of the U.S. support (jointly with South Africa) for the Angolan opposition movement against its government and for Somalia against Ethiopia. This outcome has not been different from the outcome of the other cases. Therefore, there never was an objective hope that the Afghan fighters who lived in the middle ages, as the west put it, could succeed where others, who were stronger and more capable, had failed. Perhaps a person who is familiar with the western media's coverage of the initial years of the Afghan jihad is well-aware that this jihad was most often treated as a joke and an anecdote. A few adventurous reporters traveled into Afghanistan and returned with myth-like stories about a desperate (according to their allegation) jihad nurtured by primitive beliefs and obsolete weapons.

But the Afghan jihad imposed itself. God, may He be praised, employed numerous Islamic and western countries which supported this jihad until it accomplished its goals, and they were not easy goals. To defeat a superpower militarily and politically is not a passing event that occurs every day. This is why numerous intellectuals, led by Professor 'Ali Mazru'i and others, credit the Afghan jihad for the change that developed in the Soviet Union and for the Soviet Union's subsequent collapse. Therefore, the Afghan Mujahedin, the heirs to al-Saffah people, have not only liberated their country and defeated the world's strongest army but have also changed history. So, is it fair to ask them for more? What have the mujahedin's critics done and what great accomplishments have these critics made in order that they may set themselves up as judge and jury for those who have stood the test so well?

The ongoing internecine war and the destruction between brothers in Afghanistan is regrettable. However, we must not forget that the apostle's companions, may God's peace and prayers be upon the apostle, including the people of Badr and mothers of the faithful, brandished their swords against each other. Internecine war exists today between Muslims in numerous parts of the

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Islamic world: twice in the Gulf, in Lebanon, in Palestinian camps, between peoples and governments in numerous countries, and between sects. This is an offense that is not exclusive to the Afghan mujahedin. Others who have no excuse to commit this offense have committed it.

As for characterizing the Afghan mujahedin as U.S. proteges and willing tools, it suffices that the characterization has come from leftist factions that made this accusation at the time only to defend Soviet colonialism. The accusation is founded on belief in the U.S. ability to make miracles. The accusers' logic says that if it had not been for the United States, the jihad would not have succeeded. The consequence of this accusation is, necessarily, the rush that we witness today by numerous past leftist factions and leaders to embrace the United States. Thus, this accusation is refuted by what we have previously said about the U.S. failure everywhere else. Those who made the accusation don't see it as an accusation these days.

There are also those who believe that the Afghan jihad has been a factory producing radicalism and fanaticism and that its ordeals have not been confined to what we see in Afghanistan but have spread to numerous countries because ex-mujahedin from these countries have launched war against their countries' regimes.

This accusation is somewhat true. The Afghan jihad has touched off immense capabilities in Afghanistan and around it and has channeled them toward war. Consequently, these capabilities master nothing else. However, this is a normal consequence of the Soviet invasion. Soviet oppression tried to destroy the Afghan society, thus detonating in it immense energies of hostility. Moreover, war destroyed the bonds that had tied the society together and preserved it. Had Afghanistan been left to its own devices, these fires would not have flared up.

Similarly, the shrapnel falling on other countries have not come out of the blue. The young men from the various parts of the Islamic world who raised the call for jihad in Afghanistan had suffered in advance from frustration and from loss of role in their countries. This has motivated them to seek something fulfilling.

When the dust of the current Afghan conflict settles, evident facts will immediately appear and nobody will be able to deny them: Afghans live free in their country today; their enemy is a defeated loser; and there is no tyrant oppressing them. We can even sum up causes of the current unrest in Afghanistan in the Afghans' excessive love of freedom and in their refusal to obey any authority.

National Model Called Bankrupt

95LH0231B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jul 95 pp 9-10

[Article by Ahmad Ibrahim Mahmud, researcher at AL-AHRAM's Political and Strategic Studies Institute]

[FBIS Translated Text] The maelstroms of internecine war and bloody conflict between Afghan Mujahedin groups have given rise to a prolonged state of frustration and disappointment among all those who have followed up very sympathetically the Afghan people's struggle against the Soviet invasion and against lackey regimes since the late 1970's. About three years ago, these groups turned from jihad groups fighting foreign occupation and corrupt national regimes into mere disunited militias fighting for power with extreme ferocity. This conflict between Afghan groups has been overwhelmed by a high degree of narrow political vision, irresponsible acts of armed violence, and indifference to the lives of innocent civilians. In the past three years of this conflict, vast numbers of casualties have fallen, nearing in total the number of those who had fallen over a period of more than one and a half decades. This has demonstrated not just the bankruptcy of the Afghan model but has also distorted Islam's image in all parts of the world.

Prior to 1992, the Afghan jihad movement reflected an image of bright and sparkling struggle under the banner of Islam. In the first years, mujahedin groups were able to score brilliant victories against a foe that was the world's second strongest power at the time, but these groups quickly turned against each other as soon as signs of the final victory loomed in the horizon at the outskirts of Kabul in April 1992.

The fact of the matter is that causes of the flaw in the Afghan model existed from the beginning in the Afghan jihad movement's structure. The negative ramifications of this flaw did not show initially because of the emphasis placed on the struggle against invading Soviet forces and lackey government forces. So it was normal that all negative ramifications of the flaw in the Afghan jihad movement structure would surface as soon as the factor binding the elements of this movement together, i.e. the foreign challenge factor, disappeared.

This structural flaw in the Afghan jihad movement was embodied from the start in the fact that the movement fell captive to the inherited legacy of the backward traditionalist-tribal character in the Afghan society itself. This character left its strong and clear imprints on the structure of the Afghan mujahedin groups who continued to struggle for a long time under clan and tribal banners. Therefore, the Afghan jihad movement

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failed from the start to act as the crucible in which all the Afghan society's tribal conflicts would be dissolved. The groups united only as a result of Pakistani and U.S. pressures. It was also evident that some groups were careful not to exhaust themselves in the jihad against the Soviets so they would save their military capabilities for the phase of struggle for power that followed the Soviet withdrawal and the overthrow of Najibullah's regime. Conflicts then exploded anew as soon as mujahedin groups neared the gates of Kabul.

After this, Afghan interactions entered into prolonged waves of internal conflict, all emanating from the struggle for power between Afghan groups. All Afghan factions, none excluded, displayed an amazing obsession with power, beginning with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the transitional president who was not content with the two-month period in which he assumed power from May to July 1992. Mojaddedi did not give up power until bloody clashes erupted and concerted foreign mediation efforts were made. This also applies to President Borhanoddin Rabbani who has not been content with the 18-month period in which he assumed power in accordance with the March 1993 Mecca accord. This period actually ended at the beginning of this year but Rabbani still clings to power for purely tribal considerations. Similarly, the conflict has extended to include all points connected with representation in the Consultative Council and with government and executive positions.

Within this context of struggle for power, political alliances between Afghan factions have been fast-changing and far from logic. The alliances have not risen on ideological bases but on the basis of interest. The most disgusting and repulsive alliance in this regard is embodied in the strange alliance that has risen between Golboddin Hekmatyar and Abdol Rashid Dostam against President Borhanoddin Rabbani. The strange paradox in this alliance is that throughout the period following Najibullah's overthrow, Hekmatyar took a stance of opposition to Abdol Rashid Dostam who had been a leader of the defunct Marxist regime. Dostam turned against that regime in its final days and joined the mujahedin ranks, helping them storm Kabul, the capital, at the smallest cost. But Hekmatyar rejected Dostam's accession to the mujahedin ranks and refused to pardon the crimes he had committed against the Afghan resistance when he worked with the Marxist regime's ranks. This caused an armed conflict of several months to erupt between the Rabbani and Hekmatyar groups at the outset. Despite this, Hekmatyar and Dostam got into a new alliance more than a year ago and agreed to work jointly to topple President Rabbani and to destroy his military strength. Within the framework of this conflict, warring factions have often shown not the slightest consideration for the lives of innocent citizens who have fallen victims of indiscriminate armed violence between the groups. What is more, Hekmatyar's group shelled Kabul, the capital, indiscriminately at times just to empty it of its population and to facilitate its capture. Such shelling claimed hundreds of innocent victims every time.

In addition, bankruptcy of the Afghan model is evident in the inability to develop a comprehensive, joint, and acceptable political and societal reform program in Afghanistan, not just to put the country at the start of the normal and ordinary path of political action but also to work gradually for elimination of the traces left behind by the ferocious war that has been going on since the 1970s. Within this context, the projections offered by most Afghan groups have emanated not so much from jurisprudential or ideological considerations as from pragmatic interest-oriented considerations connected with the tribal aspirations of each group. This has caused the projections to reach the point of contradiction. Golboddin Hekmatyar has continued to embrace the call for a U.S.-style presidential system that recognizes the principle of power rotation and sets the presidency for a definite term, providing for constant consultation with Muslim ulema to get their legal religious opinions. This system also calls for the National Assembly to be formed by general elections. Even though this projection seems to be theoretically and politically sound, it is founded on the fact that the ethnic group that will benefit most from it will be the Pachtun majority to which Hekmatyar belongs, considering that it possesses the force to enable it to seize the lion's share of government in such a presidential system. The Borhanoddin Rabbani-led Jami'at-e Eslami has called for giving priority to reorganizing domestic conditions, especially security conditions, and for proceeding gradually with political reform according to a step-by-step style. In a related area, the Taleban group calls for focusing on gathering weapons, establishing security and stability, and developing cooperation between the various political forces, except for the "incriminated" Afghan factions which must be ousted and not included in any future government. The Taliban also demand the formation of an Islamic government comprised of committed Islamic figures, provided that it does not include representatives of the mujahedin factions and that all provinces and districts are represented in it on a provincial basis and not a partisan basis. The Taliban demand, moreover, that security of the capital be entrusted to an impartial party. The Uzbek groups led by Abdol Rashid Dostam call for establishing a federal system in the country in order to ensure the ethnic minorities' rights by dividing the country into four big provinces—north, south, east, and west—so as to enable the various provinces

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to manage their own affairs. Dostam also projects from time to time the possibility of establishing an independent Uzbek state.

Thus, most projections stem from narrow tribal considerations that don't seem to emanate from a complete political vision. Under these conditions, it is impossible to find a way out of the cycle of armed conflict and violence. Consequently, a fundamental change is needed in the country's domestic political equation. The principles projected by the Taliban are extremely important in this regard and they touch on the crux of the political and security crisis. The main source of the country's violence and instability is the continued domination of the country's affairs by the warlords leading the various factions. These warlords' presence is the main factor in the country's inability to surpass its state of anarchy and unrest. This means that the first step in the direction of reform must be embodied in excluding and totally eliminating the sources of anarchy.

India

Air Chief Says Defense Ties With U.S. To Continue

BK0510124195 Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Sep 95 p 1

[From THE HINDU special correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S. K. Kaul, said here today that in spite of the U.S. decision to supply arms to Pakistan, the defence cooperation between India and the U.S. would go on without any problem. There was no need for a "kneejerk" reaction to the U.S. action and "an independent assessment" of the threat perception prevailing in the region was the need of the hour, he said.

There was nothing surprising in the U.S. Senate decision, since things had been moving in this direction for some time now, he said and stressed that such eventualities should be borne in mind while "deciding on our own acquisitions". The Air Chief said he expected at least a marginal increase in the fund allocation to the Air Force in the coming year so that modernisation programmes could be kept going.

In an informal chat with journalists in connection with the 63rd anniversary celebration of the IAF [Indian Air Force], the Air Chief said, "The threat from Pakistan has been looming ever since they acquired the F-16s" and added that "this and the recent decision by the U.S. should be kept in mind in our assessments." He said cooperation with the U.S. should continue in critical areas such as modernisation of Electronic and Communication equipment.

The ongoing collaboration between the two countries for developing the highly sophisticated Flight Control System for the LCAs [Light Combat Aircraft] was progressing without any hitch. Besides the U.S., India was receiving cooperation from the U.K. in production of combat aircraft.

Asked for his views on the security environment in the country the Air Chief said, "it is not very healthy" and elaborating on this, pointed to the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. Security preparedness should not be relaxed and situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, the North Eastern States and even the serial bomb blasts in Bombay in March 1994 suggested that terrorism was still alive.

Asked to comment on the status of negotiations on plans to upgrade the MiG-21 aircraft, the Air Chief said the technical negotiations were already over. Commercial negotiations were to begin very soon on the upgradation of MiG-21 aircraft. It had been decided to phase out Canberras and Hunters from the IAF and hence, these planes would be given the honour of flying past in this year's anniversary parade slated for October 8.

Finance Minister Rejects 'Rerun' of Enron Incident

BK0310033395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The finance minister has assured investors that all complaints, delays and settlements [as heard] regarding physical transfer of securities will be over within the next one or two years. In an interview with the Singapore-based Asia Business News television, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the new central depository legislation is a first step toward introduction of paperless trading in stock transactions. Brushing aside fears of a rerun of the Enron controversy, the finance minister said India is willing to enter into bilateral investment protection treaties with all major countries.

Maharashtra Government Decides To Revive Enron

BK0510154895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra government has decided to revive the 9,000-crore-rupee Enron power project at Dabhol in Ratnagiri District. This was anncunced by the state chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, while talking to newsmen in Bombay today. He said the Enron company has accepted all the conditions put forth by the state government. Replying to a question, Mr. Joshi said Enron has also given a positive indication of postponing arbitration proceedings. He said an experts committee will be set up soon to work out the details.

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Commentary Flays Pakistan's Afghan 'Interference'

BK0610051895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Commentary by Professor S.T. Muni of Jawaharlal Nehru University]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of its neighbors has reached the most flagrant and intolerable dimensions. It has launched a direct invasion on Afghanistan through trained Pakistani armed militia and paramilitary forces. This has been disclosed by the Afghan vice minister of foreign affairs, Mr. 'Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, in the UN General Assembly. He stressed that Pakistan has not only been supplying arms to its trained Taleban forces but its Inter Services Intelligence, ISI, has been trying to forge a united front of all those forces opposed to the Kabul government in order to remove the government. This is an extremely serious charge and is no less in violation of international norms and the UN Charter than the one committed by Iraq against Kuwait in 1990.

Pakistan has been using 30,000-strong Taleban forces as an instrument of its intervention in Afghanistan. The aim of this strategy is to control Afghanistan and its access to Central Asian republics, so that Pakistan can emerge as a major player in this region. This is naturally a matter of deep concern, not only to the Rabbani-Mas'ud regime in Afghanistan but also to all other neighbors like Iran, Russia, India, and even China. Iran has openly supported Kabul government's appeals to the UN for the ending of externally- inspired attacks and restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Iran and Afghanistan have also refuted Pakistani allegations that India is extending military support to the Rabbani government against the Taleban attacks.

While Pakistan's strategy of interference in Afghanistan through the Taleban forces has been well-known since April this year, and this is openly admitted in the Pakistani media as well, but a direct Pakistani attack on Afghanistan as stated by the Afghan foreign minister, Ghafurzai, is a serious new development. Pakistan has emerged as a destabilizing force and the threat to the peace and security in relation of its neighbors. India and now Afghanistan have drawn the attention of the world community toward this development. It remains to be seen as to how long the world community can remain indifferent; and the powers, like the USA, can continue to arm Pakistan to serve their narrow strategic interests, ignoring international law, UN principles, and post-Cold War ethos of international relations.

Iran Reportedly To Purchase Sugar, Rice, Wheat

BK0510093895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran will import 100,000 tons of sugar and equal amount of rice and 200,000 tons of wheat from India. The union food minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, said in Dubayy today on his way back from Iran that India's nonoil trade with Tehran has gone up by 50 percent this year over last year's. Mr. Ajit Singh said that besides wheat, rice, and sugar, Iran has also shown keen interest in importing meat, tea, paper, and engineering goods from India. With food grain production at 192 million tons, the country would be a major player in the global market, the minister added.

Radio Reports on Kashmir Industrial Growth Center

BK0510125695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, the first-ever industrial growth center will be set up in Srinagar within a month. The 30-crore rupee project will be set up in Ompura. This was announced by the industry minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, at a press conference in Srinagar today. He said the Small Scale Industries Institute shifted from Srinagar to Jammu due to militancy will be shifted back to Srinagar. Mr. Karunakaran, who arrived today on a two-day visit to the valley, called on the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao.

Report Details Minister's Plan for Economic Reform

MS0610094395 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 6 Oct 95 p 18

[Report on interview with Finance Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh by Mark Nicholson; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Manmohan Singh, India's finance minister, will deliver a quiet message to his counterparts at the annual International Monetary Fund/ World Bank meeting in Washington next week.

Countries such as his which are undertaking fragile economic reforms, he will say, need a new kind of international insurance policy because they are particularly vulnerable to external shocks, including droughts and sudden oil price rises. "Someday the world has to sit up," he said on the eve of departing for Washington. "We have seen star performers suddenly get into difficulty — we saw what happened in Mexico."

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Although he says he has no ready-made solutions, he argues that countries which are "not neighbours of the United States" — and which therefore cannot rely on the kind of US-backed rescue offered to Mexico — needed more than the currently available IMF and World Bank support. "If they run into difficulties, there should be a credible international safety net to protect the integrity of their development programmes."

Mr Singh's views carry weight because he is the chief architect of four years of economic reform which have turned India into something of a star performer itself.

No finance minister since independence has done more to integrate India into the world economy and liberate it from the dirigiste economic policies which were the legacy of Nehru and the Gandhis.

But there is some poignancy to his views, given that this could be Mr Singh's last appearance at an IMF/ World Bank gathering as finance minister. Unless Indian voters have a change of heart, Mr Singh's Congress party seems unlikely to be returned to power in next year's elections.

Mr Singh is aware his tenure may be limited; his tone this week was almost valedictory. "What we have done is more than I had expected or intended," he says. "Of the reform agenda which I had promised in 1991, I think 75 per cent to 80 per cent (of it) we have been able to complete."

Mr Singh's agenda, first outlined in his inaugural 1991 budget, was electrifying at the time. India was in the grip of a fiscal crisis, suffering double-digit inflation and close to defaulting on its external debt. Mr P V Narasimha Rao the prime minister, plucked the Oxford-educated Sikh from the backwaters of the University Grants Commission and empowered him to undertake radical — and painful — reforms. "I said to our people publicly that India was in such great trouble that for the next three years we should expect blood, sweat and tears," says Mr Singh.

India had no choice, he says, but to dismantle four decades of central economic control; to control the fiscal deficit, cut and rationalise corporate and personal taxes, end industrial licensing, welcome foreign investment, liberalise import rules and cut duties, encourage exports and deregulate India's archaic capital markets. Mr Singh pursued this agenda in five subsequent budgets.

The fiscal deficit has fallen from 8.5 per cent of gross domestic product to 6.7 per cent last year, inflation is down to 8.5 per cent, maximum import duties have been slashed from more than 200 per cent to 50 per cent. Taxes have been cuts the tax base broadened and tax revenues are buoyant. Exports have been rising at an annual rate of 29 per cent. And while imports notably of capital goods — are also rising, Mr Singh says doomsayers who predicted the de- industrialisation of India have been wrongfooted. Annual industrial growth is running at 10 per cent and overall economic growth at more than 5.5 per cent.

But the greatest achievement, he says, had been to transform "the way Indians think about their economic problems" and unlock "the latent creativity of India's entrepreneurs". There is now consensus behind the reforms, he says. State governments, whether leftist or Hindu nationalist, are "all saying the same things". Thus, he says, "structural reforms like the reduced role of the public sector, opening up of the Indian economy, increased welcome for foreign investment — these are reforms which I think are secure".

But Mr Singh is sufficiently candid to admit failures. Progress in cutting the fiscal deficit, the subject of World Bank and IMF concern, is "not as good as I had intended". Deeper cuts, he says, had been impeded by the simultaneous cuts in tax rates and import duties. The stock of public debt — now 87 per cent of GDP holds stubbornly at 1991 levels. This could not be eroded, he says, because the sweeping privatisation he believes necessary to retiring this debt was deemed politically unsustainable. Bolder privatisation "would have aroused the opposition of the organised working class, which could have derailed the whole reform programme".

India's vibrant democracy has perhaps been Mr Singh's greatest constraint. But he admits surprise that his reforms provoked relatively little social protest and adds: "There is perhaps no other instance where such far-reaching structural changes have been made in the context of a well-functioning democracy."

Even if India's electorate turfs out the Congress party in polls due next spring, he says he is content that India, under any government, is now irrevocably committed to deregulation of the economy.

He dismisses as political posturing the recent calls by Hindu nationalists for "swadeshi", or self-reliance, and the Maharashtra state government's decision to scrap a $2.8bn (1.77bn pounds) power project being carried out by Enron of the US. Mr Singh claims that his programme is economic nationalism "properly understood". He says: "India's economic destiny is safe only when India knows how to stand on its own feet, to compete against everyone else in the world on an equal footing. That is what we are trying to do. I've been wanting India to be self-reliant in that sense of the term."

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This would be a precious legacy. It is therefore not surprising that Mr Singh will urge his peers in Washington that they should find means within the international community to safeguard his — and other reforming countries' — hardwon efforts.

Iran

UN Envoy Rejects UAE Claim on Gulf Islands

LD0510123995 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq. New York, Oct. 5, IRNA — Iran's permanent U.N. envoy Kamal Kharrazi has categorically rejected the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) claim to three Iranian Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tunbs.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly Wednesday [4 October], Kharrazi said that such claims had no basis from the point of view of history or international law.

Kharrazi's remarks were in response to statements of UAE Foreign Minister Shayhh Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi that his country would refer the case to the International Court of justice at The Hague, if the two countries failed to find a solution to the dispute through face to face negotiations. Al-Nu'aymi reiterated that the UAE was ready to hold direct and unconditional talks with Iran on the issue. Kharrazi stressed that Iran was fully committed to its international obligations especially those concerning the 1971 agreement.

"Any misunderstanding arising from the interpretation or implementation of this agreement, if any, should be addressed through good will and a mutually-agreed mechanisms to find an amicable solution."

"Iran is against any measure which may cause instability in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf," noted Kharrazi, "because it can adversely affect the interests of all countries in the region."

For its part, the Islamic Republic is committed to respecting and maintaining peace, security and tranquility in the region, he said. Iran's permanent U.N. representative said that direct negotiations between the two countries was a practical step towards removing misunderstanding between the two nations.

He reiterated that Iran was still ready to take up the misunderstandings over the island of Abu Musa directly with UAE officials and to hold direct negotiations with that country without any preconditions. Iran has shown its goodwill by dispatching two top level delegations, one being led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the UAE to resolve the issue, Kharrazi recalled.

"Unfortunately our brothers in the UAE have failed to come to Tehran to follow up high profile talks between the two states despite their previous agreement," he regretted.

"They have a standing invitation for bilateral talks in Tehran, aiming to resolve the issue in a friendly and neighborly atmosphere," Kharrazi said arguing that Iran has consistently underlined the efficiency of such mechanism, and do not really see any genuine utility for the public exercise of the issue in international gatherings including the general assembly of the United Nations.

Referring to the fact that the Persian Gulf region has witnessed two destructive wars and many skirmishes and was still paying the price to ameliorate the consequences of those wars, Kharrazi assured that "wisdom and prudence will ultimately prevail."

"We are determined to maintain and promote the brotherly and good neighborly relations between the two countries," stressed the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations.

Rafsanjani Sees Waterway Connecting Caspian, Gulf

LD2509141295 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA — On the occasion of international seafaring day, President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on Monday [25 September] that there would come a day when the Iranian nation can connect the Caspian Sea with the Persian Gulf via a waterway.

Addressing a large number of officials involved in seafaring affairs in Tehran, the president said the Islamic Republic of Iran, having about 2,000 km of coastline in the south and 600 km in the north has access to sea resources at a favorable level.

The president added that since the beginning of the first five- year development plan (1989), the government has been paying attention to expansion of marine transportation and seafaring sectors and for this reason those sectors have made sound progress.

The most important measures taken by Iran in this area in recent years are training of skilled manpower, conduction of research and setting up of multi-purpose ports, he said.

President Rafsanjani said that many of southern Iranian port cities such as Khorramshahr, Abadan and Bushehr have been completely reconstructed and renovated to an

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extent that they are now playing a key role in expanding Iran's marine transportation.

He predicted that the Caspian Sea would assume a more significant role in the future from the viewpoint of politics, resources and acting as bridge connecting Iran to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is to lauch its first 100 meter high oil drilling rig in the Caspian Sea in a near future for the purposes of exploration activities and exploitation of Caspian Sea resources, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani said.

Iran, also has the capability of designing and manufacturing vessels with a capacity of 30 tons, he said, adding that Iran is presently considered as one of the advanced countries of the region from the viewpoint of seafaring and its related industries.

Meanwhile, prior to the president's speech, minister of roads and transportation Akbar Torkan gave a report on the status of seafaring in the country.

Torkan said that about 16.2 million tons of goods were imported to the country last year (ended 20 march 1995), 15.2 million tons of which by sea.

Iran, having 100 cargo ships and 29 huge oil tankers, is in possession of one of the largest commecial fleets of the region.

Caspian States' Oil Officials To Meet in Tehran

LD0110171295 Tehran IRNA in English
1419 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA — Oil and gas officials from five Caspian Sea littoral states are to meet in Tehran on December 10-11, 1995, to discuss the prospects for regional cooperation in oil and gas sectors.

The meeting is expected to be convened December 10-11, co-organized by the International Energy Studies Center and the Foreign Ministry's Center for International and Political Studies.

The issues to be brought up and discussed at the meeting include geo-politics, oil and gas deposits, prospects of production and market and future of investments and development of oil and gas fields.

The meeting is also expected to review the likelihood of international and regional cooperation for development and exploitation of the Caspian Sea resources and preservation of its environment.

Meanwhile, representatives of several intenational organizations, international oil and gas companies as well as banks and scientific institutions will attend the meeting.

Options for Caspian Oil Exchanges Kept Open

LD0210141295 Tehran IRNA in English
1405 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct. 2, IRNA — Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i has not ruled out swap deals or the longer term option of a pipeline across iran for oil exports from landlocked caspian sea countries.

Such exchanges were the "best alternative" for Iran's northern neighbors to keep costs down, he was quoted saying during his attendance at last week's international energy conference in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela.

Foreign oil companies in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have been seeking swap arrangements for the export of early oil from several Caspian Sea key developments until pipeline routes are finalised, but have been hampered by U.S. political hostility towards Iran.

U.S. firms have been allowed exemptions from President Clinton's unilateral trade ban against Iran to arrange exchanges but restrictions on terms and duration have delayed agreement.

Further complications have been caused by the national Iranian oil company's exclusion from a U.S.-led consortium in Azerbaijan because of political pressure from the White House.

Asked about the involvement of American companies, Aqazadeh was quoted by PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly saying that Iran's doors were "open to all countries." a longer term option to swaps was still a pipeline across Iran.

Plans are already in hand to build a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan for export to Europe. Oil pipelines could follow the same route or be connected to Iran's network for export from the Persian Gulf.

Tehran Heads Caspian Sea Coordination Committee

LD0410091295 Tehran IRNA in English
0747 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Anzali Port, Gilan Prov., Oct. 4, IRNA — The first session of the Caspian Sea meteorological, hydrological and environment protection coordination committee wound up its work here Tuesday [3 October].

Joining the host country, Iran, in the four-day conference were Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Kazakhstan as well as representatives of the world meteorological organization and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

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The session ratified the draft of joint projects and regional cooperation programs together with the proposed text of the coordination committee's article of association and regulations.

Issues agreed during the session included the establishment and/or expansion, revival and reconstructioin of the meteorological, hydrological and environment protection stations in the Caspian Sea to monitor the rise in sea level, establishment of a system for speedy exchange of information on meteorology and hydrology and finally, improvement of coastal watchpost stations.

Coordination in areas of scientific and methodological research and also setting up similar data banks at national and international levels were among the other outcome of the session.

The chief of Iran's meteorological organization, 'Ali Mohammad Nourian, was unanimously elected by the participants as the new head of the coordination committee.

The next session of the committee would be held in Baku, Azerbaijan next year.

Caspian Research Center Established With Russia

LD0510223395 Tehran IRNA in English
2024 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari (Mazandaran), Oct 5 (IRNA) — Director of Research Studies of the Caspian sea, Arsalan Mansouri said here today that Iran and Russia have set up a Joint Center for Research Studies on the Caspian in Moscow last month.

He said Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, the other three littorals of the world's largest inland sea would also join the center.

According to Mansouri, Iranian and Russian ecological experts would study issues concerning the Caspian Sea environment.

He said Iran and Russia worked out an agreement at the 5th meeting of their joint scientific-technical commission last month, to carry out three research programs next year.

The programs are management of water resources in the Caspian basin, studying models for balanced level of water in the sea and determining the risky points in the southern coastal areas of the Caspian, he said.

The site of the research center would be on a rotation basis of every three years. The next site of the center would be in Mazandaran Province of Iran, said Mansouri.

Lebanese Ministers Visit, Meet With Officials

Trade Minister Comments on Markets

LD0310195195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 3 Oct 5

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting [in Tehran] today between Yasin Jabir, the Lebanese economy and trade minister, and Iranian Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq, ways of boosting economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

In this meeting, Mr ol-Eshaq referred to the importance of Lebanon in linking Iran with markets in Africa. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its numerous international transport routes and the expertise and efficiency of its specialists in the field of reconstruction, can play an effective role in helping Lebanon export its goods, and gain access, to the countries of Central Asia and the other parts of the world.

The Lebanese economy and trade minister, in turn, expressed the hope that Iran will actively participate in Beirut's international fair and Tripoli's permanent trade fair. He said: In our bid to reconstruct Lebanon, we want to benefit from the knowledge and know- how of Iranian specialists.

Discusses Ties With Velayati

LD0410231495 Tehran IRNA in English
1934 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA — Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade Yasin Jabir in his meeting here Wednesday [4 October] with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati appreciated Iran's help to Lebanon and expressed hope that Iran and Lebanon would broaden their economic relations.

The Iranian foreign minister in response stressed the urgency for the meetings of the joint commissions of the two countries as well as the adoption of an organized trade mechanism as an to business exchanges between them.

Velayati, meanwhile, observed that the solidarity of various national groups in Lebanon was evidence of good understanding between them which, he said, was indispensible for neutralizing Zionist plots against the Muslim people.

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Discusses Development Projects

LD0510222395 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA — Minister of Construction Jihad, Gholam-Reza Frozesh, confered with visiting Lebanese minister of trade and economy, Yasin Jabir, here last night.

The two ministers underlined Tehran-Beirut cooperation in areas such as rural cooperatives, fisheries and dairy products.

The Iranian minister, referring to the most important fields of bilateral cooperation, said the two countries can have very close relations in exchange of technical and specialised experiences in fisheries, commerce and livestock breeding.

In view of construction jihad's valuable experiences in rural development and employment, the two sides also agreed on dispatch of an expert Iranian team to Lebanon in this regard.

Housing Minister Meets Rafsanjani

LD0410123795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, the Lebanese housing and cooperatives minister. At the meeting, the president praised the resistance of the Lebanese people in the face of the aggressive conspiracies of the Zionist regime and stressed: Maintaining unity and solidarity between Lebanon's religious sects and adhering to the principle of national interests and the good of the country is the only way of bringing about resistance and constructiveness while facing foreign pressures.

The president conveyed Iran's willingness to lend assistance to the reconstruction of Lebanon and expressed the hope that the two countries would expand their political and economic ties even further.

According to the Central News Unit, the Lebanese housing and cooperatives minister, for his part, expressed gratitude for the principled and humanitarian stances adopted by Iran and said that the aim of his visit was to find ways of bringing about the greatest possible expansion in political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. He said: Iran has a fundamental role to play in connection with the reconstruction of Lebanon and we hope that the two countries' ties will continue to grow.

Discusses Need For 'Islamic Resistance'

LD0410212395 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 4 (IRNA) — Expansion and strengthening of relations and cooperation between Iran and Lebanon in all areas were discussed here on Wednesday [4 October] by the visiting Lebanese Housing and Cooperatives Minister Mahmud Abu-Hamdan and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two ministers stressed the need for strengthening Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, confronting Zionist aggression and crimes and the preservation of Lebanon's unity, cohesiveness and independence.

Hamdan lauded Iran's wise policies towards Lebanon and its unsparing support for Islamic resistance in Lebanon in confronting the occupiers.

He called for further expansion of relations and cooperation between Iran and Lebanon in all areas.

He called as "effective" promotion of Tehran-Beirut commercial relations in strengthening and consolidating bilateral ties.

Velayati referred to the growing trend of mutual ties and underlined continuation of Iran's support for the Lebanese people's resistance against Zionist aggression.

Furthermore, he underlined the need for unity and cohesion among all resistance forces in their struggle against the occupiers and cooperation among them in reconstructing their country.

He termed as positive areas for further promotion and strengthening of bilateral cooperation, especially in the area of trade.

Daily Calls For New Leader To Replace 'Arafat

NC0610050495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "A Yarmulke for 'Arafat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last Thursday [28 September] in Washington the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Zionist regime signed an accord extending Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank.

In spite of self-rule, control and security over more than half of the West Bank is still given to the Zionist regime. Yitzhaq Rabin recently told an Israeli newspaper that Israel will not give up four conditions:

1. Israeli forces will not withdraw to the cease-fire line of June 1967.

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2. Jerusalem will remain under Israeli control.
3. No Jewish settlements will be removed.
4. No Palestinian government.

The ideas of the Zionist regime are realized by signing the accord. That is why during the signing ceremonies in Washington, while looking at Yasir 'Arafat, Rabin said, "I can only say, you must be Jewish."

Muslims will not give up East Jerusalem regardless of whether Yasir 'Arafat signs a piece of paper or not. So the accord does not reflect reality.

Popular Palestinian groups have vowed to continue their struggle against the Zionists and bring down the "Defeatist Accord."

The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher plans to begin a new Middle East shuttle within the next few weeks in order to sort out the remaining problems and get full Syrian support for the pact.

The official Syrian daily recently wrote, "Syria does not adopt hasty positions and will not impose insurmountable conditions, but it is guided by the logic of peace which demands withdrawal by Israelis from occupied lands."

Now that it has been divulged that Yasir 'Arafat is Jewish, it is time to present him with a yarmulke, and elect a new Palestinian leader who will not give everything up, lock, stock, and barrel.

Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Taba Agreement

LD0610062795 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1926 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Interview with Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs, by unidentified correspondent from the "Political Roundtable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] As you know, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, Yitzhaq Rabin, and the PLO leader, 'Yasir 'Arafat, signed an accord last Thursday [28 September] in Washington for the self-rule of a part of the West Bank of the River Jordan known as Taba. That event, which can be interpreted as the broadening of restrictions, to coin a phrase, was widely reflected in the world news and political circles. In this program, our honorable guest Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, and I will be reviewing the dimensions and consequences of the Taba Agreement. [passage omitted]

Thank you, Mr. Sheykholeslam, for taking part in our program. As the first question, what is your assessment of the general status of the compromise negotiations after the signing of the Taba Agreement?

[Sheykholeslam] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good evening viewers. I must say that there are many ambiguous points which U.S. propaganda and the Washington meeting made great efforts to cover up. They include the ambiguity of the fate of 125 settlements containing 140,000 people.

[Correspondent] Jewish settlements?

[Sheykholeslam] Yes, those Jewish settlements are part of the territory of Palestine. In Oslo the Israelis set the security of those settlements as a basis of the negotiation task. In most of those areas security is now in Israeli hands. Beside that, there is the Judaization of al-Quds [Jerusalem]. That is, from that stage of the negotiations they took al-Quds out of the talks. Even for elections the Israelis did not accept any Palestinian deputies to be proposed from al-Quds unless the candidate had another address in the West Bank as a place of residence. Neither did they agree for the Palestinians inhabitants of al-Quds to vote directly. They forced them to vote by post.

Ambiguities are rife regarding the holy city of Hebron. There are 400 Jews and 120,000 Palestinians but, for the sake of those 400 Jews, the security forces and the head of security are still Israeli.

The timetables in the Taba Agreement remain ambiguous. They remain a tool in Israeli hands to play with as they will. As we have witnessed in the case of the Oslo Agreement, which in itself is a treachery against the Palestinian nation and Palestinian people, it has been toyed with by the Israelis and they have postponed issues at every stage. In this agreement also unfortunately we see many such examples. What I can say, in general, is that this is another stage in the weakness of the Palestinian negotiators in the face of pressure and the onslaught by the Israelis and the electoral needs of the United States and the faction which rules Israel today.

[Correspondent] As you know the Oslo Agreement was termed as Oslo-1 and the Taba Agreement is known as Oslo-2. Can the act of dividing the negotiations into stages, and the fact that we will probably have numbers three and four later on, be interpreted as the debacle of the compromise talks, at least for 'Arafat?

[Sheykholeslam] This a correct assessment. 'Arafat could not get what he was promised in Oslo, even though he had received their signatures. As I said before, the Oslo Agreement was in essence an act of treason against the Palestinian aspirations. Nonetheless, the Israelis were still hesitant about implementing what

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they had promised in Oslo. Step by step, they delayed the implementation. Taba is just one of these steps.

In fact, everyone thought that after Madrid, everything would proceed smoothly. However, the optimism which existed at the time of the Madrid conference has now been transferred to total pessimism. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It seems that the present negotiations are moving toward an autonomous Jordanian-Palestinian state. Is this analysis correct and, if so, what does Jordan think of it?

[Sheykholeslam] Recently, after the escape by Husayn Kamil, the global propaganda spoke of a Jordanian-Iraqi-Palestinian confederation. The truth is that the long-standing policy of Israel, or for that matter that of the colonialists in general, has been the partition of our region on the basis of ethnic divisions. [passage omitted] Our theory, instead entails the total unity of the region on the basis of Islam, in which we all believe. [passage omitted]

It is only natural that the progressive countries of the region, and in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be opposed to the Zionists' theory. We will not allow the colonialists and the Zionists to draw the map of the region as they like. We are powerful and have powerful friends in the region and we are able to prevent these conspiracies. [passage omitted]

Yitzhaq Rabin once said that Israel was not fighting a single guerrilla group in the north. They fire at 20 of our bases and then attack the 21st. We are actually fighting against Iran there. That famous saying shows their enmity toward Iran.

The fact of the matter is that the South Lebanon Army and the security belt no longer play the same role for Israel and perhaps Israel would be prepared to withdraw from south Lebanon on the condition that the government of Lebanon guarantees no attacks would be launched against Israel from southern Lebanon and northern Palestine. But the government of Lebanon is not currently prepared to give such a guarantee due to its alliance with Syria. It wants the problems of the Golan Heights and Lebanon to be solved simultaneously.

[Correspondent] Therefore, one can conclude that the recent developments in the Arab Middle East and in occupied Palestine, the occupation of parts of southern Lebanon, and pressures exerted upon the Lebanese Government to cancel Resolution 425, were really aimed at separating Lebanon from Syria. This is a new plot which has been hatched by the United States and the Zionist regime in order to implement the new plan.

[Sheykholeslam] That is absolutely right. These are aimed at exerting pressure upon Syria and Lebanon to separate them. The conspiracy does not end there. There are a number of other conspiracies in the region which have worried Syria. The visit of His Excellency 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam [Syrian vice president] to Tehran could be viewed as a reflection of this anxiety. These are some of the conspiracies aimed at weakening the steadfastness of the front against the U.S.-Israeli compromise plan.

[Correspondent] Does the Taba Agreement enjoy popular support?

[Sheykholeslam] Many people in Palestine and Jordan are not in favor of the agreement].

[Correspondent] As my last question by way of a round-up I wish to conclude that U.S. efforts in order to draw up a new Middle East have failed. The Islamic Republic of Iran was against the trend of compromise in the Middle East from the start. How do you evaluate this plan?

[Sheykholeslam] Look! At this stage, the U.S. aim, or even Rabin's aim, is not to solve the Middle East problem. The Middle East problems have been turned into propaganda means in the electoral rivalries inside the United States and Israel. They are not dealing with the matter in a fundamental way. From the start, there was no intention of dealing with the issue from a fundamental point of view. If they wished to deal fundamentally with the issue they should have paid attention to the Palestinian nation. The most important element of the Palestinian issue is its territory, the sacred sites that we have there such as Holy Jerusalem, such as the graves of the great prophets, as well as the Palestinian nation itself.

Even if you look at all the UN resolutions, there is no mention of the Palestinian nation. Even where there is a reference to them, the reference is made to refugees who have to be housed somewhere. There is no mention of the Palestinian nation, the rights of that nation, or the right of the Palestinians to decide their fate and many other issues which a nation is entitled to in view of international law. Such issues are ignored. They are deliberately ignored. As regards the refugees, Israel has wanted them to go and be housed in south Lebanon... [pauses] in southern Iraq.

For the United States too this is only a means to an end, for Mr. Clinton against the Republicans. This is why they are exerting pressure. Unfortunately, some people are forsaking their national interests, I am not even talking about their Islamic interests, they are ignoring their own national interests for the sake of Clinton's electoral aims against the Republicans. They

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are forsaking the goals which they should have upheld, which were the goals of their nation and the goals of Palestinian history, so that Clinton can win in the United States and Rabin can win against the Likud party in Israel. In my view this is a great treason against the Palestinian cause and Palestinian aspirations. [passage omitted]

Importance of Rafsanjani's Trip to Hanoi Viewed

NC0510140895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Hanoi today on the first leg of his tour of southeast Asian countries. During the visit, our president will meet with the Vietnamese president and will discuss the expansion of bilateral relations and study ways to establish more contacts between the two Asian alliances—ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN—and the Vietnamese officials.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Vietnam, which comes after the Vietnamese president's visit to Tehran last year, is the first visit by a high-ranking official of our country to Hanoi. This visit is important because Iran and Vietnam enjoy a special place—especially in the political sense in the region and on the international scene. There is no doubt that in the post-bipolar world, they are considered two big regional and international powers. Both countries have successfully endured a long war against international plunderers in one way or another. They are now trying to embark on a fundamental reconstruction of their economic structure, while preserving their special characteristics and ideological inclinations.

Vietnam has started a new era of reconstruction after two big crises—the war with the United States and its 19-year sanction, and acute differences with China over Cambodia. Vietnam's basic strategy is to strengthen its reconstruction process through regional cooperation. The existence of cheap labor, favorable natural resources, and extensive facilities for foreign investment in that country have led to an active presence of Asian companies in the Vietnamese market. Moreover, Vietnam's 73-million strong hard- working population with its talent to learn the necessary know-how and expertise, coupled with rich untapped underground resources have rapidly gained the attention of many Asian countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran—as an important regional power—has reached a specific level of development and Tehran-Hanoi cooperation can meet some of Vietnam's needs. Iran's spectacular progress in the fields of oil, road construction, and agriculture have created conditions under which our country can transfer technical know-how in various fields and help Vietnam's economic programs.

At any rate, the fact that Iran and Vietnam are situated in two of Asia's sensitive areas, their commencement of fundamental reconstruction, and their inclination toward regional cooperation are among the factors that make the two countries more determined to adopt a common strategy toward the expansion of cooperation in all fields—both on the regional and international levels.

Daily on Zolfaqar Military Maneuvers, Preparedness

NC0610131695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thirty thousand Iranian forces participated in the Zolfaqar military maneuvers, conducted in an area of 1,000 sq km in Tehran Province on Friday [29 September] to demonstrate the combat readiness of the armed and Law Enforcement Forces to defend the city key areas in the face of natural catastrophes.

The gist of the maneuvers, commanded from the Sarallah Headquarters by the Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Brigadier-General Rahim Safavi, was unity of different services under one command. Fifty battalions from the Law Enforcement Forces and five battalions of women relief workers from the Basij forces participated in the maneuvers.

The Zolfaqar maneuvers is a link in the chain of 'Ashura maneuvers, held to enhance combat readiness of forces acting in the cities. In the aftermath of the Iraqi imposed war, Iran has launched several air, sea, and land maneuvers in this regard.

Safavi, while commanding the maneuvers, was only pondering over a Qoranic verse, incorporated in the IRGC's insignia, i.e., "And prepare against them what force you can and horses tied at the frontier, to frighten thereby the enemy of Allah and your enemy and others besides them, whom you do not know (but) Allah knows them." (8:60)

It is not the illusion of the enemies that matters. What is important is the combat readiness of our forces to defend our motherland and Islamic Revolution against the incessant plots of our sworn enemies.

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Need Seen To Combat 'Western Cultural Onslaught'

NC0610050595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "News Agency Can Spearhead Campaign Against Western Cultural Onslaught"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Neither gun barrels nor nuclear power determine international relations today. In our era it is information which rules.

The developed world has succeeded in taking advantage of the information revolution and its sophisticated technology in imposing its ideas—and its ideals—on the developing world.

News agencies have played an instrumental role in the West in carrying out their cultural onslaught over the Third World. Although Third World countries do not have the resources and the technology to resist this cultural invasion, they have not lost heart in this unequal war. They resist "aggression from the skies."

Aware of the role that a news agency can play in thwarting the enemies' plots, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution asked the staff of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) to consider three factors in reporting: usefulness, goal-orientedness, and promptness.

In so far as the usefulness of a news item is concerned, it is the responsibility of the ministries and other government organs to provide IRNA reporters with first-hand, useful information—which they usually do not.

No doubt our colleagues at IRNA are quite dedicated to their work. IRNA, however, as the sole news agency of the country, shoulders a very heavy responsibility in carrying out the Leader's guidelines. Indeed, promptness is a determining factor in imparting the accurate message of a country to the world. Since technologically we lag behind the world's news tycoons, the least we can do is be prompt in our reporting.

Our colleagues at IRNA should bear in mind that they spear-head the campaign against the Western cultural onslaught. Hence, if they do not act promptly in their reports, our enemies will go ahead with their plots before the world is rightly informed of our ideas and stands.

Export Chief Calls Trade Fair Complete Success

LD0510212695 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 5 (IRNA) — Head of the Export Promotion Center of Iran (EPCI), 'Ali Saeedlu said on Thursday [5 October] the industrial and the developing states which are taking part in Tehran's International Trade Fair have voiced readiness to enter into long-term economic cooperation with Iran.

Speaking to IRNA, Saeedlu said presence of 800 foreign companies and 2,200 domestic firms in the 21st International Trade Fair in Tehran proved that the participants put their achievements on display in Tehran despite the U.S. trade embargo on Iran.

He said the international trade fair has reached its goals and its performance is unprecedented.

The industrial states have voiced readiness to set up production lines in Iran because they believe Iran is a good trade partner for them in the Middle East with access to the central Asia and other regional markets.

He said Iran has become a crossroads in the region for foreign trade and the presence of 90 international companies in the trade fair showed that Iran is a strategic trade partner.

Since the opening of the trade fair on Monday, many economic and political delegations have visited the fair and fruitful negotiations have been held between Iranian and foreign entrepreneurs, he said.

Saeedlu said the negotiations have included delivery of services in addition to trade exchanges.

He said Iran has attended 55 international trade fairs throughout the world in the current year and planned to attend 45 other trade fairs by the end of the current year.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0610105395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0750 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The next point concerns a domestic issue. I want to talk about the International [Trade] Fair [started 2 October in Tehran]. Fifty-three countries are taking part in this fair. I can honestly say that this fair has buried once and for all the U.S. embargo. In other words, this fair has announced practically the death of U.S. influence.

In the old days when someone in this country mentioned Kennedy, the U.S. president, or the White House, everyone would think our destiny was dependent on them. However, today we can see the U.S. president underlining in the strongest possible terms the need to

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impose an economic embargo on Iran but the world rushes to this fair. Look at the number of agreements reached! Look at the exhibition of Iranian industrialists! This is a blessing of the Islamic revolution! [crowd chants in support: "God is Great!" "Khamene'i is the Leader!" "Death to the hypocrites!" "Death to Saddam!" "Death to Israel!" "Death to America!"]

The next issue which is to do with foreign policy concerns the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the sad affairs surrounding Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the efforts by Iran to lend support to the Bosnian Muslims. The Islamic Republic of Iran has reacted more strongly than any other party to the crimes and atrocities of the criminal Serbs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated the fact that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be given weapons so that they may be able to defend themselves. So long as this uneven war continues and as long as the United Nations and other international organizations continue their present approach, one must say with utmost regret that we will continue to witness the suffering of the oppressed people of that country under the tyranny of the Serbs. Just in the same way that we see the misery that the Palestinian people are subjected to by the regime occupying al-Quds [Jerusalem].

However, one must not give up hope, just in the same way that these people have not given up hope. Global arrogance has been unable to implement its plans as it wants due to the courage and resistance of these people, whether in Bosnia or Palestine.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports these people and calls on all the right-seeking people, in particular the Muslim community, to rush to the aid of these two oppressed nations of the world, who are captive in the talons of either the Serbs or the regime occupying al-Quds.

The other point is the issue of the three U.S. soldiers who raped a 13-year-old Japanese girl [in Okinawa]. This is an issue concerning capitulation [reference to immunity from prosecution on foreign soil]. This dictates that an American who has committed an offense or a crime abroad cannot be prosecuted there, and the United States itself should deal with his crime. However, if the people of that country commit a crime in the United States, then they can be put on trial there. This law applies to the 50,000 or so U.S. soldiers who are stationed in Japan.

We have two things to say about this. The first is that we should hail and praise the Japanese nation for their attention to this issue. At first, the ladies staged demonstrations, followed shortly by rallies by the gentlemen. The demonstrations went on for so long that the U.S. government was forced to say that the Japanese judiciary can prosecute the three soldiers on the condition that the Americans can be present as observers at the trial.

We like to congratulate the Japanese nation for trying to rid itself of the pressure of U.S. arrogance. Of course Japan is economically very powerful, but attention to political issues is also important.

The other point is to ask how such an awareness came about. We must hail our great imam [Khomeyni], who told the Qom seminarians [in the early 1960s] that capitulation was going to be introduced in Iran. What he said was that if a U.S. soldier hit an Iranian by car, then the Iranian judiciary would be powerless to do anything, but if an Iranian insulted even an American's dog, then a court in the United States would have the authority to prosecute him. This is what our imam said. It was this warning of our imam which alerted not only the Islamic world but also the non-Islamic countries. Japan has just risen from its slumber, and is following the move which was initiated by our Imam. [passage omitted]

It is because of this movement that today we see our president travelling to the other side of the globe and all the media reporting this. All the powers of the world are paying attention to this. This greatness and independence was created by the Islamic republican system of government. This is a blessing from Islam.

And today a jurisconsult with all the necessary qualifications [Khamene'i] is leading this system. Laws are formulated and implemented on the basis of Islam. This is a sign of Islamic greatness in the world.

Sometimes some people start talking about emulation and tafrid [following a single jurisprudent] in the universities. They say we do not have the concept of emulating [a senior Islamic jurisconsult] or tafrid in Islam. But we do not have blind emulation or tafrid in Islam. The concept of an ignorant person engaging in tafrid or emulating a knowledgeable one, an irrational person emulating a rational one, is embedded among the deep thinkers. It is a deep concept among all the knowledgeable people of the world. Sometimes these subjects confuse children but our youth must be aware. A certain concept will have a certain meaning under certain circumstances but that meaning is wrong under other circumstances. [passage omitted]

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Pakistan

Official Assures UN Envoy of Help for Afghanistan

BK0510161195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has assured Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, that it would extend any assistance needed to find a solution to the Afghan problem that would be acceptable to all factions. This assurance was given to the UN envoy during his meeting with Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh in Islamabad today. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan fully supports the UN special envoy's efforts to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. The spokesman said Mahmoud Mestiri briefed Pakistani officials on his meetings with various Afghan leaders. The spokesman added that the UN envoy was encouraged by their initial positive reaction. The spokesman also said that Pakistan has told the UN envoy that the Kabul administration's allegations about Pakistan's support to Taleban are false. Asked about an interview by Salman Khurshid, the Indian minister of state for external affairs, in which he claimed that India allowed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders to attend the Organization of Islamic Conference summit, the spokesman said that it is a well known fact that the Kashmiri leaders were granted permission under international pressure. The Indian Government has been creating hurdles so that the voice of Kashmiris cannot reach the world.

UN Envoy: Afghan Regime Has No 'Legitimacy'

BK0510120295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, has said the Afghan regime no longer has legitimacy in the eyes of Afghan population as it has no popular support. Exercising his right of reply after a speech by the Afghan minister, Mr. Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, at the UN General Assembly he said that President Rabbani, who should have handed over power in June 1994, has not so far fulfilled his commitment. He said the attempt by the Kabul regime to implicate Pakistan was clearly designed to divert the attention of the people of Afghanistan from core issue of transfer of power. The Pakistan representative pointed out that even the UN evnoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, has noted that the base of the government has become narrower and it represented only the Tajik ethnic group. The Pashtuns, Uzbeks, and Hazaras, who represented about 60 percent of the country, have been alienated.

Minister Denies Interference in Afghan Affairs

BK0310040695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Senate was informed last night that Pakistan is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and has no ill will toward its Afghan brethren. This information was given by the law minister, Mr. N.D. Khan, while speaking on identical adjournment motions regarding the violent attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul last month. The motions were moved by Mr. Khalilur Rahman, Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Chaudhary Mohammad Anwar Bhinder. Professor N.D. Khan said Pakistan is keen to see peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan and the foreign minister recently visited that country to impress upon the Kabul regime to cooperate with the UN peace process. He said Pakistan supports the process to bring back normalcy to Afghanistan and save Afghan brethren from the horrors of civil war.

Earlier, responding to a point of order by Mrs. Nasrin Jalil, Professor N.D. Khan, who also heads the government team for negotiations with Altaf Group, again made an appeal to the Altaf Group team to resume dialogue without any further delay to arrive at a negotiated settlement of the political issue. Later, the Senate was prorogued after remaining in session for two weeks.

Official Denies Charge of Aid to Afghan Taleban

BK0410143095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. George Clement, has rejected President Rabbani's statement that Pakistan is helping the Taleban movement to topple his government. In a statement in Islamabad, he called on President Rabbani and Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to avoid bloodbath in Kabul by agreeing to the UN and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] plan for peace in Afghanistan. Mr. George Clement recalled that Pakistan had always had friendly relations with Afghan people and supported them in the darkest days of their national life. Even today, Pakistan is keeping a large number of Afghan refugees. He said Pakistan cannot be blamed if Afghan people had risen in revolt against President Rabbani. He said President Rabbani should rather inform his people as to why he continues in office when his term has already expired.

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Editorial Views Russian Ties, Delegation's Visit

BK2809130795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Can Moscow wake up?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, the leader of the visiting three-member parliamentary delegation of Russia has conveyed the Russian willingness of selling arms to Pakistan. In his meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Vengerovskiy hinted at the possibility of such an agreement in the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Moscow. Mr. Aleksandr acknowledged Pakistan's concern over the Kashmir problem also. He pointed out the commonality of interests that exists between the two countries on regional issues.

Earlier, the visiting Russian Foreign Minister had also assured Pakistan that Russia recognises the disputed nature of Kashmir. This acknowledgement was nothing but acceptance of a historical fact, for contrary to the Indian propaganda, the struggle of Kashmiri people is not the dreaded separatist movement on religious or ethnic grounds. It is the unfinished agenda of the modalities of bifurcation of the former British colony. It was tripartitely agreed that simultaneous to the end of the British rule in the subcontinent, the former colony would emerge as two independent states of India and Pakistan comprising areas of Hindu and Muslim majorities respectively. The Hindus, however, conspired with the non-Muslim Kashmiri ruler and subverted the agreement. Later the UN recognised through its resolutions the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people and India agreed to honour the resolutions. The Kashmir issue, being generically different, stands in marked contrast to the separatist movements and must not be confused with the later.

When the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali visited Moscow in July 1994, steps to improve Russo-Pak relations were considered. He had also stressed the need for cooperation in the areas of mutual interests and the Russian response to the Pakistani proposals is stiff awaited. We had pointed out earlier in these columns that the sale of Russian arms to Pakistan is just a small segment of the very broad spectrum of commonality of interests with vast potential for both the countries to benefit from. Pakistan and Russia are neighbors. If for some reasons in the past this very important factor failed to assert itself positively in bilateral relations, the discrepancy needs to be rectified and its repugnant components neutralised for good. The cold war is over, so should its legacy be forgotten. The world has undergone radical changes. NATO with its awesome nuclear lethality was directed mainly towards Russia. Who could in his wildest dreams, have imagined Russia joining hands with NATO a few years ago. Why in the backdrop of such a tremendous transformation, Russo-Pak relations should remain an unfortunate exception?

Pakistan wants a friendly Russia and this country has a track record of standing by its friends regardless of the price. No forward looking Third World country can welcome the unipolar New World Order revolving around a single superpower. Unipolarism is abominable. It is unnatural and cannot prevail for all times to come. Nature does not allow a single pole to exist.

The coasts of staying at such dizzying heights are colossal and the United States is economically crumbling from within. The New World Order, despite the wishful longings of some, is going to be multipolar though not necessarily in a military sense. The economic clash of interests between the United States and Japan and others is the emerging antithesis to unipolarism. It is bound to intensify, Pakistan shares the rapidly growing belief of the Third World that Russia, China, Japan and Europe have to play the balancing role. They have to preserve the naturally plural and multipolar character of the world for stability, peace, progress and prosperity. Moscow must wake up to the strong under current and being trimming its sails accordingly.

Daily Reports on Interest To Purchase SU-27's

BK2809112195 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 28 Sep 95 p 5, 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad—It has been learned from reliable sources that Defense Ministry officials have expressed their interest in purchasing Russian SU-27 aircraft while talking to a Russian parliamentary delegation.

The Russian parliamentary delegation offered to sell Russian weapons and military equipment to Pakistan during their meeting with Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani and other high-level Defense Ministry officials. At the moment, however, Pakistan has shown interest in buying SU-27's. Pakistan made it clear to the Russian delegation that it will buy SU-27's only if Russia is willing to guarantee the supply of spare parts and technology for these aircraft. The Russian delegation was told that it will be a problem for Pakistan if spare parts are not provided due to Indian pressure, since Russia has close ties with India and the two countries have also signed a defense pact.

According to reliable sources, the Russian delegation assured the defense minister that they will convey Pakistan's apprehensions to President Yeltsin and other concerned officials.

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Government Said To Defer PLO Protocol Ratification

BK0510085695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: The government has decided not to ratify an already signed Pakistan-PLO Protocol, delaying by several months the establishment of Pakistan-Palestine Joint Ministerial Commission [JMC], revealed sources in the federal cabinet.

The decision was made at the recent meeting of the federal cabinet which Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chaired. The approval of the federal cabinet was sought for ratification" of the Pakistan- Palestine Protocol singed in November 1994 by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Faruq Qaddumi of Palestine Liberation Organisation on behalf of the State of Palestine. "The cabinet decided to put off the matter for at least 4 to 6 months," sources said.

Giving the reasons behind the decision, sources said, "If Pakistan and Palestine established the proposed Joint Ministerial Commission, there will be a problem of seeking Tel Aviv's approval for flying over the Jewish territory before landing in Palestine."

Sources said the decision was taken after an in-depth discussion on the implications of ratifying the Pak-Palestine Protocol since Pakistan does not have diplomatic ties with Israel nor has any desire to have any business transactions or talks with the Zionist state. At present, the government is not interested in having any kind of direct or indirect relations with Tel Aviv—a policy it will have to change if it has to take approval from Jewish authorities to fly over the territory before entering Palestine," source said.

The government is interested in establishing the Pak-Palestine Joint Ministerial Commission for economic cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan, according to official sources, has already taken a decision following the signing of the protocol to allow increase in the number of Palestinian students who wish to study in Pakistani institutions. Pakistan is also facilitating Palestinian Muslims to get training in the fields of police, customs and banking plus cooperation in other sectors.

It has also been proposed by the Foreign Office, said official sources, that the Pak-Palestine JMC should be supervised by the Foreign Office for a variety of reasons. Foreign Office is already supervising many JMCs with several nations for one or the other reason. The Cabinet, said the sources, will review the matter again after four months by taking up the latest developments which will occur in the near future in the context of State of Palestine and its self-rule with autonomous status.

Official Hails British Party's Kashmir Resolution

BK0610041695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The British Labor Party in a resolution has urged British Government to use its good offices to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute on the basis of the UN resolutions. The resolution was adopted at the annual conference of the National Executive Committee of the Labor Party in Brighton. The statement of the policy by Labor Party is historic as it recognizes that Jammu and Kashmir is disputed territory and that the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir are valid as other such resolutions. [passage omitted]

The chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has hailed the British Labor Party's statement for supporting the cause of Kashmir. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan in a statement in London expressed the hope that other democratic [as heard] loving parties would follow it and support the Kashmir cause. Terming the resolution of the party as moral boosting, he said despite every effort by Indian Government, the Labor Party was with the Kashmiri people for their just right cause. Meanwhile, hundreds of Kashmiris and Pakistanis living in Britain gathered in Brighton to welcome the historic victory for the people of Kashmir.

Prime Minister: Opposition Causing 'Sectarianism'

BK0510163495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today performed the ground breaking ceremony of the Mian Channun Multan dual carriage way project to be constructed at a cost of 1.8 billion rupees. She also inaugurated the Mian Channun Sui gas supply project, which has been completed at a cost of 746 million rupees. Speaking at the inauguration of the Sui gas supply project, she said the government was alive to the basic problems of the people and was focussing its full attention on facilitating the working and the middle classes. [sentence as heard] She said 27 cities and towns have been provided gas during the last two years. The prime minister said her government had increased Pakistan's friends in the comity of nations, paved the way for $20 billion foreign investment, lifted the ban on appointments, and had enhanced salaries of government

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servants. Crores of saplings are now being planted throughout the country to augment national wealth. The prime minister said the opposition's allegations about establishment of seismic station at Chakwal and her candidature for the position of UN Secretary General were entirely baseless and misleading. She severely criticized her opponents and said they were creating hurdles in the way of her government through sectarianism, heroin culture, and parochialism. About the situation in Karachi, she said gangs of terrorists were being smashed while the leader of the opposition was having meetings with [Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader] Altaf Hussain in London against whom cases were registered in his time.

Speaking on the occasion of ground breaking ceremony of Mian Channun-Multan carriage way Ms. Benazir Bhutto said her government is paying special attention to communication and network of highways.

Further on Bhutto's Remarks

BK0610091895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Oct 95 p 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] MULTAN—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Mian Nawaz Sharif should not visit London to see Altaf Hussain frequently, if he loves his homeland and he should use his good offices to close down the training centre of Javed Langara in India.

Addressing a big gathering after inaugurating the Mian Channun Qadarpur Ran Sui-gas project on Tuesday [3 October] she said that Mian Nawaz Sharif never condemned the terrorist activities in Karachi. He did not condemn the killing of two sons of "SP" [Superintendent of Police], attack on Chenab Express and other subversive activities. Instead he supported the "terrorists". She further said that terrorists activities in Karachi sped up whenever Nawaz Sharif visited London to get the support of Altaf Hussain. [passage omitted]

APP adds: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that the Opposition Leader Mian Nawaz Sharif is putting impediment into the peace process in Karachi and trying to disrupt government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks by plotting with Altaf Hussain in London. She said that talks with MQM were leading towards success when Nawaz Sharif suddenly flew to London to meet Altaf and plotted with him a fresh wave of strikes and killings in Karachi.

Benazir Bhutto disclosed that during his tenure as Prime Minister he had himself registered a case against Altaf for killing Major Kaleem Ullah and now he goes away to London to touch Altaf's feet. She concluded saying that Nawaz Sharif's complicity with evil forces is because of his lust for power. This also proved that be has no love for the people who were being butchered and slaughtered and eliminated without rhythm or reason in Karachi.

She said the present Opposition should not forget that they were the people who supported Martial Law. Drawing paralleled between the good act of her government and their bad acts she said the Opposition Leader in his days fomented sectarianism and ethnicity while PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government was facing an uphill task to purge the society of these menaces.

They banned government employment we lifted if; they cut forests while we are planting millions of saplings; they filled their own coffers we are adding to the national purse; they raised industries during Martial Law days while she has no factory of her own.

They put curbs on judiciary and Press, we are restoring their freedom. She said now her government is engaged in speeding up development work because this government holds the working class supreme.

She said the Opposition now has no issue and it is engaged in the business of concocting lies. She said systematic false propaganda has been launched in the Press. First they said Benazir Bhutto is going to become United Nations General Secretary. She said this is blatant lie and added she is not going anywhere and will remain here with the poor people to work for their uplift. She said they have been throwing fake feelers in the Press one was about Gwadar the recent one is about ban on commutation of pension. She said no decision has been taken by the Government at any level in this respect.

Now they say the PPP Government is corrupt and their objective is to hide their corruption of raising mills and minting billions she said and added the Opposition is on war path when opposing forces in the world are united together at the end of cold war to sit together and sort out problems.

She assured that only democracy holds brighter future for the people of Pakistan.

She said is very happy with the people of Mian Channun because they always supported the PPP. Apart from providing pollution-free gas for domestic commercial and industrial purposes, she announced early completion of 88 km that dual carriageway from Multan to Mian Channun, an overhead bridge and a byepass which she inaugurated on Thursday. She also announced one ambulance from Federal Government and one by Punjab Government besides a computer centre for Mian Channun town.

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Cabinet Establishes Separate Human Rights Ministry

BK0210135795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet has approved the establishment of a separate ministry to deal with human right issues in Pakistan and abroad. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chaired the meeting. The new ministry will act as a catalyst for action by various government organizations for enhancing the respect and observance of human rights. It will help in projecting Pakistan's image within the country and abroad as a moderate, liberal, and democratic Islamic polity committed to protect and promote human rights. The Cabinet decided that the new ministry will have suboffices at all the provincial headquarters for closer liaison with a view to ensuring that human rights issues are meaningfully addressed at the provincial level.

Approval was also accorded to a draft bill to abolish the punishment of whipping in criminal cases, other than those where Had [Islamic ordained punishment] is applicable. Had cases in which the penalty of whipping is ordained by Holy Koran will remain in effect by the proposed bill.

The Cabinet also gave approval to a package of relief measures to revive the textile sector.

The Cabinet gave approval to the ratification of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Preferential Trading Agreement [SAPTA]. According to it, the concessions granted to one member state of SAPTA, other than the least developed countries, will be applicable to all the members.

The cabinet expressed its sense of deep shock and grief over the sudden death of Makhdoom Altaf Ahmed, senior minister of Punjab. It paid rich tributes to the departed leader for his selfless services to the people of his province and to the cause of democracy. The meeting prayed to almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

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